

THE TIMES

No. 66,423

FRIDAY JANUARY 29 1999

http://www.the-times.co.uk

The new
face of
tennis

page 7

Victims of
virtual
reality

page 23

TOMORROW
ROBBIE
WILLIAMS:
Why I want
to be a
show-off

MICHAEL
CAINE:
Why I have
never strayed

30p

EVERY
WEEKDAY

When the Mirror crack'd, media times pages 40-43 FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS page 49

Waiting list fund raided to pay nurses

By JILL SHERMAN AND ROLAND WATSON

THE Government sparked protests yesterday by announcing that it is to raid the £1 billion health service modernisation fund to finance big pay rises for nurses.

Downing Street angered health service managers when it admitted that it intended to use money earmarked for reducing waiting lists and buying high-technology equipment to top up nurses' pay. Junior nurses are expected to receive 11 per cent increases on Monday when a £4 million recruitment campaign will be launched, while others in the profession will receive an average of 4.7 per cent.

The awards will cost £400 million more than had been set aside for health service pay, but the Government appears prepared to use money intended for other purposes to stay within Gordon Brown's public spending limits.

The Cabinet yesterday approved pay awards for the 1.3 million employees covered by the five independent pay review bodies: teachers, nurses, midwives, dentists and dentists, and senior civil servants and judges. All of the awards will be met in full and none will be phased.

Mr Brown told colleagues that the settlement was "affordable and fair", but made clear that cash would have to be found out of existing allocations.

That is likely to annoy councils, which have already said that if they have to pay teachers more than another 3 per cent, they will be unable to meet Tony Blair's pledge to cut classroom sizes.

Teachers are expected to get awards of up to 4 per cent, doctors 3.5 per cent, and judges and senior civil servants about 3 per cent. Downing Street admitted that nurse requirements

was seen as a priority this year, and said that teachers would not be given the same special treatment. A spokesman also made clear that only the Health Department would be allowed to draw on capital modernisation funds.

The NHS modernisation fund was set up last July specifically to address information technology, improve waiting lists, to modernise hospital departments and educate staff in new treatment patterns. When the Treasury published its report last year, it made clear that the extra money — £5 billion over three years — would be for improving health services rather than for pay awards.

Yesterday health officials said that £74 million had already been committed from £1.2 billion to be allocated in the coming financial year, and estimated that the remaining money would be almost entirely absorbed by the pay award.

Stephen Thornton, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, which represents health service employers, said: "The consequence is that we won't be able to modernise the NHS next year. That is a terrible shame because everybody in the NHS staff managers, doctors, nurses want to do that."

Ann Widdecombe, Shadow Health Secretary, urged the Government to find the award from central reserves.

"Clinical services should not suffer because the Government does not pass enough money to pay for the review body recommendations," she said. "We have already seen other services suffering this winter because of the waiting list initiative. The Government says it is spending £21 billion on the NHS so where is their problem in funding the nurses pay award properly?"

The former Conservative Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, said that the Government had landed itself in a "dreadful mess". They have aroused very unrealistic expectations, they have grossly exaggerated the amount of money they have made available to pay these pay settlements and they face a deteriorating economic situation, so they have got no room for manoeuvre.

The Liberal Democrats called for an immediate injection of £300 million from Treasury reserves to prevent a collapse in NHS morale and to save thousands of teachers' jobs.

On April 26, old terms such as "writ" and "plaintiff" will be replaced by "claim forms" and "claimant". Out will go familiar Latin tags such as *ex parte*, *inter partes* and *in camera*, and in will come "with notice", "without notice" and "in private". The court will give its "permission" rather than "leave" and the distinguished



The Prince of Wales driving to Aberdeen airport on the first leg of his journey from the Queen Mother's Scottish estate near Balmoral to the Ritz last night

Ritz besieged by the aluminium army

By ALAN HAMILTON
AND MICHAEL HARVEY

The biggest aluminium army seen on the streets of London for some years besieged the Ritz in Piccadilly last night in the hope of snatching the picture of the decade.

More than 100 photographers, each with his jealously-guarded ladder and accompanied by reporters and broadcast crews, crammed a 30-yard stretch of pavement on the strength of as tip-off that, after a decade of hole-in-the-corner skulduggery and pretence, the Prince of Wales would finally present himself in public with his long-standing companion Camilla Parker-Bowles.

A shot of the couple together, snatched in private, could have netted a freelance photographer an estimated £2 million from magazines around the world. Last night, the word was that the Prince and his companion would quash that opportunity for individual money-making by appearing in public for all to see.

The occasion was a party to celebrate the 50th birthday of Mrs Parker-Bowles's younger sister, Annabel Elliott. The Prince was hosting a charity dinner at St James's Palace less than five minutes drive, or even a brisk walk through



Camilla Parker-Bowles: party to celebrate sister's birthday

back alleys, away. He was expected to join the Ritz party for the last hour.

But the Ritz has many entrances, and it was feared that the couple, deterred by the

huge gathering of cameramen and the wave of preliminary speculation, might be put off and leave separately and discreetly by the back door.

As early as 9am on Wednesday, the best squares of pavement directly opposite the main entrance had been "taped up" and then "laddered up" by representatives of the *Sun*, *Mirror* and *Daily Mail*. They were swiftly followed by independent photo agencies, other newspapers and TV companies. Within a few hours a straggling cove of ladders had sprung up as word spread, and by Wednesday night it had become a forest.



I gather he used to be a royal photographer

The ladder has become as much a part of the royal photographer's equipment as his flashgun and long lens. Cheap, portable and available at all good DIY stores, it not only gives the snapper a better view, but guarantees a place.

Respect for the ladder system is demanded, with official stickers and unofficial warning notes such as: "Don't even think about moving these steps."

In the past, especially around Westminster, police have caused chaos and near-fistfights by confiscating ladders in over-zealous security swoops. Last night most newspapers had at least half a dozen photographers in place to cover every possible angle.

The conviction that this was the night was fuelled by an absence of any firm denial from St James's Palace, and the belief that, if the Prince was at last going to present Mrs Parker-Bowles, he would do it at an occasion more associated with her than with himself.

There have been other opportunities, such as the wedding last October of Simon Sebag-Montefiore and Santa Palmer-Tomkinson at a north

London synagogue, at which they arrived and departed with conspicuous separation. But to have been seen together there would have stolen the bride and groom's thunder.

Eighteen months ago it was rumoured that the Prince and Mrs Parker-Bowles would make a clean breast of their relationship by appearing together at functions of the National Osteoporosis Society, with which Mrs Parker-Bowles is associated, but if any such plans existed they were put firmly on ice by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Now that the first anniversary of that tragedy is well past, the couple may feel the time is right to appear together. On the other hand, the patient snappers speculated, they might equally well creep out by the back door, long and infuriating minutes apart.

Prying lenses, page 6

Volvo to close Scottish plant

Ford is to take over Volvo's car business for £3.9 billion, leaving apparently outbid Fiat of Italy. Volvo will now concentrate on truck and bus production — but it announced the closure of its lorry assembly plant in Irvine, Ayrshire, with the loss of at least 250 jobs.

EU manifesto

Tony Blair is to sign up to a pan-European election manifesto that praises the euro, commits the Government to trimming the scope for the veto in EU policy-making, and ending "harmful tax competition".

No room to spin a doctor

By RACHEL KELLY
AND BEN WAKEHAM

PETER MANDELSON may well have to start at the bottom of the ladder and work his way up again when he sells his spacious town house in Notting Hill.

He has indicated that he wants to stay in the area but the money he has to spend may mean that he can only afford a flat on the "smallish" side.

Local estate agents said that with an expected £250,000 to spend he could afford a two-bedroom upper maisonette in the neighbouring street to

Northumberland Place, Court-nell Street.

But Richard Ford, from the Kensington Office of the estate agents Knight Frank said that by staying in the area he would find it difficult to match the kind of capital gains he had made when he bought his house in Northumberland Place, which has seen a rise in value of around £250,000. "Basically, Mr Mandelson will be starting again," Mr Ford said.

Should he decide to leave Notting Hill and has around £250,000 to spend, that would pay for a two-bedroom flat in one of the Georgian houses near the Commons.



The Notting Hill house that cost Mr Mandelson his job

Legal Latin outlawed pro bono publico

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE legal language and traditions that have characterised civil courts for decades are swept away in new set of rules published today.

On April 26, old terms such as "writ" and "plaintiff" will be replaced by "claim forms" and "claimant". Out will go familiar Latin tags such as *ex parte*, *inter partes* and *in camera*, and in will come "with notice", "without notice" and "in private". The court will give its "permission" rather than "leave" and the distinguished

JUSTICE THE MODERN WAY			
writ	claim form	statement of case	claimant
pleading	statement of case	claimant	child
plaintiff	claimant	child	in private
minor infant	child	in private	without notice
in camera	in private	without notice	with notice
ex parte	without notice	with notice	litigation friend
inter partes	with notice	litigation friend	freezing injunction
next friend/guardian ad litem	litigation friend	freezing injunction	
Mareva	freezing injunction		

Anton Piller order will turn into a plain old search order. The 800-page document published by the Lord Chancellor's Department also aban-

dons old traditions to lay down new procedures giving judges an active role in managing cases and dictating the pace of litigation.

There will also be a new multi-track dispute system with cases allocated according to their complexity and how much money is at stake.

But solicitors are starting to panic over the tight timescale, which gives them only 60 working days to get to grips with the new system.

The rules were published in their final form for the first time on the Lord Chancellor's Department Website last week and today they will be available as a £250 book from the Stationery Office. The Office is expecting hundreds of orders and there are already fears

that it will be unable to meet demand.

Frances McCarthy, vice president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, said: "People are getting anxious and a little panicky. There is a very large amount of information to get through - and the point is that it is all starting afresh, chucking out all the existing rules."

Dave McNeill, Law Society spokesman, said: "It will be quite a struggle", but he did not expect chaos on April 26, so long as solicitors, barristers, judges and court staff "pulled very hard together".

Head Over Heels

Engagement rings from the "Etoile" Collection in eighteen carat gold with diamonds set in platinum, from £1650. Band ring £885

TIFFANY & Co.

NEW YORK SINCE 1837

LONDON 25 OLD BOND STREET 0171-409 2740
HARRODS KNIGHTSBRIDGE 0171-733 1234

Husband tells of lover's fatal attraction

'Jenny grabbed me by the hand and led me upstairs'

THE husband of Kathryn Linaker, who was knifed and bludgeoned to death by a colleague in a drama society, told a court yesterday of his sex sessions with the woman who killed her.

Chris Linaker, 35, a former computer trainer, said at Chester Crown Court that he fell in love with Jenny Cupit, 24, a fellow actor at a local drama society, and that they enjoyed a passionate relationship for more than a year.

They would meet regularly to have sex at each other's homes in Warrington, Cheshire, in the houses of friends and relatives. In the open air in Delamere Forest and Alton Towers and once in a multi-storey car park in Blackpool. They filmed themselves in one daytime encounter in a hotel room and, on at least two occasions, indulged in sexual threesomes, once with Mr Linaker's brother-in-law Neil Alcock while Mrs Linaker was out at work and with Cupit's husband, Nick.

The court heard that Mr Linaker had been pestering his lover to set up a threesome with herself and female friend but this date was abandoned when it clashed with the birth of his second child, Holly.

As the affair continued in a welter of late letters, snatched telephone calls and Valentine cards, Cupit began urging Mr Linaker to leave his wife and two children and run off with her to Canada. He became concerned that she would tell his wife about their affair.

Cupit, a hairdresser, is alleged to have murdered Mrs Linaker, 33, in a fit of jealous rage last April at her home in Penketh, Warrington, stabbing and clubbing her to death with a kitchen knife, a carving knife and a heavy bottle.

She denies murdering Mrs Linaker, a deputy headmistress at St James School in Haydock, and an author of educational guides, but has pleaded guilty to manslaughter due to diminished responsibility, a plea contested by the Crown.

Mr Linaker told the court, under questioning from Alex Carlisle, QC, for the prosecution, that it was Cupit who took the lead in their affair.

He and his wife, then a successful teacher, met through the Warrington Centenary Operatic and Dramatic Society, which became the hub of their social lives, through which they met others in their circle, including Nick and Jenny Cupit. The two couples, who both had young children, be-



Chris Linaker, Cupit's lover, videoed their three-in-a-bed sex session in the spare bedroom with Neil Alcock, below



came friends. They had known each other for a "few years" before his wife's death, he said. Mr Carlisle asked Mr Linaker, who worked as a computer trainer, whether the relationship between his wife and Cupit was one where intimate confidences would be expected to be exchanged. He replied: "No."

Mr Linaker admitted that he began the affair with Cupit early in 1997. She told him that she had feelings for someone in the drama society and, within seconds, had admitted it was him. He insisted that he told her it was not a good idea to take their relationship further.

Mr Linaker said he first had sex with the young mother of two in January 1997 when he

went to her house in Orford, near Warrington, during the day. She had sex in her bedroom.

"We were talking in the kitchen and Jenny Cupit put her coffee down, grabbed me by the hand and took me upstairs," he said. Mr Carlisle observed that "it does not seem as if you protested too much."

They had sex often, more than weekly. They made love at their houses, at the homes of Cupit's in-laws, at her friend home. In the open air in the Delamere Forest, beside the theme park at Alton Towers and once in a multi-storey car park on a day trip to Blackpool. Once Cupit booked a hotel room at the Novotel, off the M6 on the way to Swinton, Manchester, where they met and made love several times.

Mr Linaker admitted that, at his instigation, he videoed himself having sex with his father's camera. Mr Carlisle asked: "What was Jenny's reaction? Did she raise any objection at all?" He replied: "No."

Mr Carlisle asked: "Was there any other occasion when you videoed yourself and Jenny having sexual intercourse together?" "At my home," replied Mr Linaker. "Had she shown any reluctance to have it videoed on that occasion?" "Not at all," Mr Carlisle asked. "Did she watch it?" "Yes, with me," the barrister continued. "What was her reaction to watching you and her having sexual intercourse?" Mr Linaker replied: "She found it exciting."

Cupit, from the dock, interjected: "You liar." Mr Linaker described two occasions when they invited a third man to join them for sex. He said that Cupit made it clear that a threesome was one of her fantasies so he invited his brother-in-law, Neil Alcock, to join them.

They met on a weekday at his home while Mrs Linaker was working at school. The



Jenny Cupit, accused of murdering her lover's wife, leaving court yesterday. She made first move in an affair that led to death, the jury was told

threesome videoed the hour-long encounter from a camera set up on a tripod in the corner of the spare bedroom. Mr Linaker said Cupit had oral sex with both men. When they replayed the tape, she seemed to enjoy it, he said.

In early 1998 Mr Linaker went to Cupit's home in Warrington for another threesome; this time with her husband Nick. The three had sex while the couple's two children were asleep upstairs. During the relationship she spoke of her desire for him to father her child. She was distressed when her family doctor told her she had miscarried after a short pregnancy. Later, it emerged that Cupit was upset when she discovered Kathryn Linaker was pregnant with baby Holly. Mr Carlisle asked: "Did Jenny ever express feelings towards your wife Kathryn?" "Yes," replied Mr Linaker. "She was jealous. The main reason was she was my partner. Kathryn was the one I went home to, spent weekends with; that sort of thing."

Mr Linaker said that his wife had warned him that she felt Cupit might "move in on him". Once Cupit arrived unannounced at their detached home where she assured Mrs Linaker that she had no such

intention. The conversation left Kathryn confused, said Mr Linaker.

Mr Linaker said there had been an incident in an unlit Warrington street in March last year which upset Cupit. She said that she had been attacked by a man who grabbed her from behind, torn her blouse and put his hand down her trousers. He had believed her at first but later was not so sure, he told the court.

Mr Linaker said that he had bought Cupit a vibrator as a sex toy at a shop in Manchester. She appeared thrilled with it, he said, and they had used on a "few occasions".

Mr Linaker said that several weeks before his wife's death Cupit appeared more aggressive and angry.

During cross-examination Adrian Fulford, QC, for the defence, suggested that Mr Linaker was drawn to Cupit for sexual reasons. He described Mr Linaker as a man with a taste for pornography,

videos and sex aids and that he had kept up the affair, right up until the day before his wife's death, for his own sexual gratification.

Mr Linaker agreed that in one card he had written: "To the sexiest, tastiest most unnecessarily insecure woman I know and I know you very much, your special friend."

Mr Fulford asked: "At the same time you told her over and over again you loved her, when she asked you seriously if you would leave your family, you didn't answer immediately. You paused before you said no as if you were thinking about it seriously?" "No," replied Mr Linaker. "I paused because I was taken aback."

Mr Carlisle asked: "Was it discussed from time to time?" Mr Linaker replied: "Regularly in letters she used to send me." The barrister went on: "Did you ever lead her to believe you would leave your wife?" Mr Linaker said: "No."



Kathryn Linaker warned her husband about Cupit

'MY FEELINGS ARE MORE THAN SEXUAL'

The jury was shown the only handwritten letter that Mr Linaker sent to his lover, although he received many from her.

It began: "I have finally done it. I have put pen to paper. I am not sure what to write, of course..." But he goes on to say he loves her, misses her and that she was assured a special place in his heart: "My feelings for you are more than just sexual," he wrote. "I am sure it should please you thinking of me doing naughty things to myself while thinking of you. I am certainly making up new ways of making love to you in my mind... In the beginning the thought of somebody like you finding me attractive, I found incredibly erotic. Since then I have grown to love you."

It was signed: "I love you always, Your friend"

Art academy's 'public face' blames lover for sacking

By DIANA BLAMIRE

A-PROMOTIONS manager at the Royal Academy of Art was sacked after an affair with her boss ended, an industrial tribunal heard yesterday.

Miriam Sassoon, described as the gallery's public face, was said to have been "bullied and shouted at" by Zack Malcolmson.

Miss Sassoon, who was subcontracted to run promotions for exhibitions at the academy, said that her life was made hell by her former lover. He demeaned her in front of colleagues and gave her a written warning when she complained about him, she said.

The 24-year-old was sacked last August for "unprofessional behaviour" when she objected to the warning. Her employers say that she started a whispering campaign against Malcolmson and called him a bastard in front of staff.

Miss Sassoon told the Central London Tribunal that Mr Malcolmson, the academy's London site manager, forced her to apologise to a colleague who had made her cry, snubbed her at company



Malcolmson and Sassoon: had an affair, tribunal told



drinks evenings and ignored her views, even when they were conducting joint interviews.

She is claiming sexual discrimination against Arts Communications and Technology, which employed her and Mr Malcolmson. The company was used by the Royal Academy to produce its exhibitions and to produce audio guides. Her role was to promote CD-Roms and audio-guides. Visitors to exhibitions would see her to acquire the guides.

Miss Sassoon said: "When I first joined the company, Zack

would not speak to me, but he was friendly to everyone else. "My brother died that year and I had a few days off work. He started to talk to me after that."

The couple started a relationship eight months after she joined the company. Miss Sassoon told the tribunal: "We slept together in Christmas 1997. In late March, Zack and myself went to Amsterdam and, about three weeks later, I ended the relationship because we weren't communicating. We tried to be friends thereafter, but Zack took to ig-

noring me." After that, Miss Sassoon said, Mr Malcolmson picked faults with everything she did.

"I was shouted at and bullied and told I was behaving unprofessionally. I put in a grievance which was ignored and was given a written warning for unprofessional behaviour."

"At one point he called me unprofessional in front of staff at the Royal Academy and in front of other promoters, which obviously upset me. It was bombastic."

Naomi Ellenbogen, representing Arts Communications and Technology, said: "The reason she got a written warning was for smoking outside the gallery, conducting a whispering campaign against Mr Malcolmson and shouting and swearing at him at company parties."

She told Miss Sassoon: "You were the face of the company which the public first meet when they walk in the gallery. It was essential that you behave in a professional manner."

The case was adjourned until April 22.

PC arrested brother in toy feud

By PETER FOSTER

A-POLICEMAN arrested his brother for swearing after a ten-year disagreement over a rare Dinky toy reached boiling point, a court was told yesterday.

PC Roy Lewis-Tatton, 33, arrested his brother Paul, 39, after a row last October. Nottingham magistrates dismissed the case after hearing of the feud. They heard that the pair had hardly spoken since the day Paul Tatton accused Roy, a toy collector, of trying to trick his son into parting with the valuable toy in exchange for a cheap Action Man.

On the night of his arrest, Paul Tat-

ton told the court, PC Lewis-Tatton had arrived at his house in Nottingham alleging that he, Paul, had assaulted his 18-year-old son, Carl. The teenager told the court that his uncle had offered to change his father with assault, but he had declined. He added that his uncle had seemed intent on getting his father charged. "My dad had just been trying to restrain me in the house because of my temper. I was just angry. My father hadn't really hit me."

Paul Tatton said his younger brother then turned to go back to the patrol car, saying that there was a difference between "chastisement and assault" and

promising that "the next time I will personally come and arrest you". Paul said he was arrested after he tried to explain that he had not assaulted his son. At this point, the court heard, PC Lewis-Tatton handcuffed his brother and bundled him into the car, telling him he was being arrested for aggressive and abusive behaviour towards a police officer. Yesterday Paul Tatton said that he believed the row over the Thunderbirds 2 spaceship, worth an estimated £200, was the real reason for his arrest.

Finding Paul Tatton not guilty of using threatening behaviour, magistrates also awarded him £1,000 costs.

Introducing our exciting new Freestyle Mortgage - and a great rate.

4.5%

The new Freestyle Mortgage from Standard Life Bank is specially designed to offer a consistently attractive interest rate - that's because we keep our costs low and operate a highly efficient telephone based system.

We're launching with a 2% Discounted Variable Rate for the first six months of your mortgage. There are no arrangement fees, no Mortgage Indemnity Guarantee, and we'll refund the standard valuation fee.

when your mortgage is completed. We'll even pay the legal fees for remortgages.

Add to all this the fact that there's hardly any paperwork and you can arrange a mortgage in a few minutes. To find out how, speak to your Financial Adviser or call us now. It couldn't be simpler.

0845 845 8450

Mortgages have never been simpler

PHONE LINES OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-5PM, SATURDAY 9AM-5PM

هكذا من النحل

Trimble demands action over Collins

Government is urged not to turn a blind eye after IRA informer's murder, reports Martin Fletcher

DAVID TRIMBLE accused the IRA yesterday of breaking its ceasefire by murdering Eamon Collins, the IRA informer. He demanded that the Government take action.

Chief Inspector Eddie Graham, who is leading the murder investigation, said that Collins had suffered an "horrendous death". His injuries were so appalling that the police advised his widow, Bernice, not to view the body.

"It is more akin to a crime indicative of that carried out by primitive savages than it is of a society entering the 21st century. It was absolutely dreadful," he said. Collins was killed on a country lane near his home in Newry before dawn on Wednesday. He died from multiple stab wounds and bludgeoning of the head.

"It's fairly clear who murdered him — presumably the

same people who burnt his house and were responsible for the hit-and-run attack on him a couple of years ago, and that is the IRA and particularly the South Armagh IRA," said Mr Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister.

"This is yet another breach of the ceasefire and I wonder what the Secretary of State is going to say about it... It's important the Government shows through its actions that it is not turning a blind eye."

Mr Trimble would not specify what he wanted the Government to do, but on Wednesday night he backed an unsuccessful Conservative motion to halt terrorist prisoner releases until IRA violence stopped. Other senior Unionists said that the murder had strengthened the case for barring Sinn Féin from government until the IRA began disarming.



Collins: he died from multiple stab wounds

Mrs Collins told yesterday's *Irish News*: "They finally got him." Her husband had got up at 4.30am to paint over hostile graffiti near their house before taking his dogs for a walk. "I knew when I got up and Eamon wasn't there. I just got a knot in my stomach."

"Although you knew there was always the possibility it could happen, and you felt you were prepared for it, you just can't be... We had talked about the escalation in the in-

timidation, and it wasn't just aimed at him. It was aimed at the whole family.

"We had talked of moving elsewhere, if only for the children's sake."

Collins, who will be buried today, told the *Belfast News Letter* the day before his death that he had terminal heart disease. "I don't know what will kill me first — my enemies or my illness," he said.

Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin's president, called the murder "regrettable".

He said that Collins had "many enemies in many, many, many places", but insisted that republicans felt no sense of triumph at his killing. Terry Madden, 52, a charity worker from Monasteraden in Sligo, died from gunshot wounds to his legs yesterday, in what appears to be the first punishment killing in the Irish Republic since the 1994 IRA ceasefire.

In Dungannon, Co Tyrone, a Roman Catholic family escaped injury when a pipe-bomb was thrown through their kitchen window.



Michelle Cadwell, left, and Kate Brown get reading as the first books arrive

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trial date for murder charge GP

A family doctor charged with killing eight female patients was yesterday committed for trial on two alleged murders. Harold Shipman, 52, of Salford in Longdendale, Greater Manchester, is charged with murdering Jean Lilley, 39, in April 1997, and Irene Turner, 67, in July 1996.

He is scheduled to appear at Manchester Crown Court on March 1 for a plea and directions hearing on all the charges against him. Mr Shipman, who has a practice in Hyde, has already pleaded not guilty to the murders of four former patients.

Killer gets life

A killer trapped by his earprints was jailed for life by an Old Bailey judge for raping and strangling a woman. Kiliyan, 22, in Erith, southeast London. Karl Stirk, 26, had listened at a window before breaking into her flat.

Pots of money

A collection of more than 120 cookery books dating from the early 1600s fetched £59,000 at Sotheby's in London. It included a rare, 1861 first edition of Mrs Beeton's *Book of Household Management*, which sold for £1,200.

Doorstep killing

A teenager shot dead after answering the door may have been mistaken for another man. Leon McKinlay, 18, of Old Trafford, Manchester, was hit several times in the chest. Police said victim may have known the real target.

Protester evicted

Margaret Jones, 49, the university lecturer who gave up her job to join anti-roads protesters, has been evicted from a warehouse where she was single-handedly holding up work on the £30 million Avon ring road at Warmley, near Bristol.

Carey's mission

The Archbishop of Canterbury is in Damascus for the first visit by a head of the Anglican Church to Syria. "I am convinced the world needs deepening relationships between Christianity and Islam," Dr George Carey said.

Meningitis death

Paul Caffrey, 12, has died after contracting meningitis on an adventure training course in North Wales. Seventeen fellow pupils from Widnes, Cheshire, who shared his dormitory are receiving antibiotics.

Hands-on chief

Norman Bettison, 42, the Chief Constable of Merseyside, leapt from his official car after an awards ceremony to chase and help to arrest a suspected thief that he saw fleeing from a shop's security guard.

Chilly landing

Shetland bird-lovers hope to send a cattle egret, which has been found 2,000 miles north of its usual habitat, back to the Algarve. The birds have visited southern England, but have never been seen in Shetland.

CORRECTION

Yale University's collection of British art was donated by Paul Mellon and not by Paul Getty as stated in an article (January 27) on Denver Art Museum.

Token, page 49

Children see their tokens bear fruit

By HANNAH BETTS

THE first delivery in the Free Books for Schools scheme was met with delight at Westcroft Special School in Wolverhampton yesterday. Children mobbed the delivery man and tore open the boxes in a race to be first to their new books.

Sue Commander, the school's literacy co-ordinator, said: "Now that they're all pulling together to collect tokens, our children think of reading as a real pleasure."

Most of the tokens have come from the children themselves. Pupils are keen to gather up tokens from their parents' newspapers, many coming in with fistfuls at a time. James Lawrence, 12, said:

"The books you are giving us are better than we had before and more fun in lessons. We are doing more reading every day."

Miss Commander said her pupils had been swept into a collecting frenzy after their appearance in *The Times* earlier this month for being the first school to place an order. Since then, Westcroft has amassed 3,000 tokens.

Can your school beat the token-saving total of Westcroft? Call *The Times* Free Books for Schools hotline and tell us about your school's progress on 0171-895-9018 (office hours only). Throughout February, 223 Asda stores will be doubling all Free Books for Schools tokens as customers pass through the checkout.

Token, page 49

"The books you are giving us are better than we had before and more fun in lessons. We are doing more reading every day."

Miss Commander said her pupils had been swept into a collecting frenzy after their appearance in *The Times* earlier this month for being the first school to place an order. Since then, Westcroft has amassed 3,000 tokens.

Can your school beat the token-saving total of Westcroft? Call *The Times* Free Books for Schools hotline and tell us about your school's progress on 0171-895-9018 (office hours only). Throughout February, 223 Asda stores will be doubling all Free Books for Schools tokens as customers pass through the checkout.

Token, page 49

Lloyds Bank Mortgage Rate for Personal Customers

Lloyds Bank Mortgage Rate, Home Loan Rate and Lloyds Bank Black Horse Mortgage Rate will be 7.7% with effect from 29th January 1999, and then reduced to 7.45% with effect from 1st February 1999.

www.lloydsbank.co.uk



Part of the Lloyds TSB Group

Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS

DAEWOO VALUE

£139 PER MONTH
FOR A HIGH SPEC FAMILY CAR.
(APR 15.1%)



Nubira

With a Daewoo Personal Contract Plan you could drive a family sized car for as little as £139.99 per month and until 31st March 1999 Daewoo are also giving you one year's free insurance (subject to status).

Nubira SE 4dr List Price	£11,795
40% Deposit	£4,718
First monthly payment	£214.99
Plus 35 monthly payments of	£139.99
Option to purchase fee	£4,505.69
Annual percentage rate	15.1%
Total amount payable	£14,338.33

At the end of the agreement you have 3 choices:

1. Pay the remaining amount and drive away.
2. Return the vehicle and walk away.
3. Apply for another Personal Contract Plan.

Example based on 12,000 miles per annum.
Any excess charged at 8p per mile.
A £75 administration fee

is payable with the first instalment. Credit provided subject to status. Written details on request. You must be 18 or over to apply and a UK resident (excluding the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man). All Nubiras come with the following as standard:

- 1) 3 year/60,000 mile free servicing, including all parts, labour and a courtesy car.
- 2) 3 year/60,000 mile free comprehensive warranty.
- 3) 3 year Daewoo Total AA cover.
- 4) 6 year anti-corrosion warranty.
- 5) Dual Airbags, 6) ABS, 7) Power Steering.
- 8) Central Locking, 9) Air Conditioning.
- 10) Alarm, 11) Metallic Paint.
- 12) Delivery, number plates, 12 months road tax and vehicle first registration fee.

The fixed prices for the Nubira range from £11,795 to £13,795. For more information on Daewoo's other offers or your nearest outlet, call us free on 0800 666 222.

SAVINGS BY DEALING DIRECT? THAT'LL BE THE DAEWOO VALUE

How they kept the prying lenses out

By ALAN HAMILTON

FOR years, the only pictures in newspaper libraries of the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles together have been images from another age.

She was Miss Camilla Shand then, and he a bachelor naval officer with a penchant for polo when on shore leave. Their brief romance in the 1970s is immortalised in a picture of them gazing lovingly at each other in a break between chukkas, standing by a stout oak tree suitably carved with other lovers' initials.

There are pictures, too, of the Prince as godfather at the christening of the Parker Bowles' son, Tom, but they are merely family snapshots without sexual chemistry or concealed agenda.

When their resumed relationship, now between two married people, became common knowledge in the 1990s, they went to enormous lengths to conceal it from prying lenses. But they were not always successful: in 1990 a freelance

cameraman snapped them climbing into a Range Rover together at Balmoral.

They confined themselves largely to Gloucestershire and the safety of Highgrove. But in October 1995 they suddenly adopted a high-risk strategy by jointly attending a 50th birthday party at the Ritz for Mrs Parker Bowles' friend Lady Sarah Keswick. They were careful, however, to arrive and leave separately; neither was yet divorced.

Photographers thought their best chance of catching the couple together was at the Beaufort Hunt, of which both were enthusiastic members. But the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles developed a complex and carefully planned ritual: she would attend in the early part of the day and canter away to lunch. Within an hour, the Prince would appear for an afternoon's sport.

Mrs Parker Bowles has been remarkably tolerant of the cameramen who regularly stake out the hunt, but they



The picture that immortalised their early romance: the Prince and Camilla Shand at Windsor Great Park

now have more than enough pictures of her on her own, mounted or unmounted.

When the Prince held a 50th birthday party for Mrs Parker Bowles in 1997, he remained safely within his own four walls. But cameramen waiting at the gate were given a surprising amount of co-operation by police and security men to photograph the star guest's arrival.

There seemed, for a time, a discreet campaign to introduce Mrs Parker Bowles for-

mally to the public. In April 1997 she hosted a charity event for the National Osteoporosis Society and allowed *Hello!* magazine to photograph her there in return for a hefty donation. But then Diana, Princess of Wales died in a Paris underpass, and everything was put on ice for a long time to come.

When she returned the previous year's compliment and hosted Charles's 50th birthday party at Highgrove last November, she again made sure that her car slowed to a crawl

to allow the cameramen a good view of her revealing green silk and velvet outfit, her dazzling hairdo, and her sapphire and diamond jewellery ensemble.

A few days earlier, she had attended a birthday function for the Prince at Hampton Court Palace, and although she danced with her beau in front of his sons, she came and went with the utmost discretion by a side entrance.

The same discretion was employed last October when the

couple attended the society wedding of Santa Palmer-Tonkinson at a North London synagogue. They arrived half an hour apart, sat in different rows during the service, and left in separate motorcades for the same destination—a reception at the Ritz. Once again the photographers were cheated of the one picture to die for: the one with a guaranteed sale to newspapers and magazines around the world. Once again, they would have to wait to make their fortunes.



Lily Langtry, one of Bertie's chaise-longue conquests

Dirty Bertie was spared the tabloids

IT WAS a mistress, they say, who killed Prince Albert (Alan Hamilton writes). Not, needless to say, his own, but the first horizontal acquaintance of his son Bertie, the Prince of Wales and future Edward VII.

Bertie had been sent to Dublin in 1861 for gunnery training, but discovered instead the delights of a warm Irish actress. When he was ordered back to his rooms at Trinity College, Cambridge, his father took the train to give him the talking-to of his life, caught a dose of typhoid fever, and was dead at the age of 42.

His son proceeded to a long and diverting career on the chaise-longue. At his coronation in 1902 he invited several of his ex-mistresses to witness the event from a balcony in Westminster Abbey which the press, duly chastised, "Edward's lounge boys".

The upper classes knew all about Bertie's liaisons with Alice Keppel, Lily Langtry, the Countess of Warwick and the rest, and the word filtered down through society. But the tabloid press had not yet been invented in its present form, and the technology to print photographs in newspapers did not exist.

Edward VII had the good fortune to have an understanding wife in Queen Alexandra, who would never have dreamt of whingeing to the media about an overcrowded marriage. Besides, he was an avuncular fellow, admired for taking care of his past amours long after the passion had died.

Not only did the press draw

a veil over his boudoir excursions, they politely declined to mention Edward's other, and stranger, peccadillo. He was extraordinarily fond of chess, dealing with the captain of the London Fire Brigade who would inform him as soon as a big blaze had been reported in the capital. The heir to the throne would be there, helping with the hoses at dead of night, much as the present Prince of Wales used to make secret midnight visits to the capital's homeless.

The case of Edward VIII was altogether different, because his relationship with Mrs Simpson became more politicised. The British press, led by Beaverbrook's *Nippon* *Daily Express* and by the hugely influential *Times*, maintained a conspiracy of silence over the King's affair.

The foreign press, however, were having a field day. When Mrs Simpson's divorce petition was moved from London to Ipswich in the hope that no one would notice the hearing, British newspapers blandly reported a list of names, while one American journal shouted from a banner headline: "King's Moll Reno'd in Wolsey's Home Town".

While the present Prince of Wales has been at pains to keep his relationship with Alice Keppel's great-granddaughter in the shadows, his predecessor did much to push Mrs Simpson to the fore. When she visited Balmoral her name, at his insistence, appeared in the Court Circular.



Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson: treated discreetly

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES

Currys

one 2 one

up 2 you

NEW LOW PRICE

SAVE £50

CURRYS PRICE £99.99

ONE 2 ONE Digital Mobile Phone

- Up to 60 hours standby time.
- Up to 4 hours talktime.
- 99 number phone book.
- Call timer.
- Includes £10 call time*
- Model MOTOROLA M760UP2U.

NEW CURRYS PRICE £69.99

PRE-PAY PHONES

FROM £64.99

BUY YOUR CALL VOUCHERS FROM CURRYS, AND WE'LL GIVE YOU EVERY 13TH FREE

Ask for details.

£20 up 2 you

£50 up 2 you

£50 up 2 you

£50 up 2 you

SAVE A TOTAL OF £15

VOUCHER PRICE £64.99

NO

BUY YOUR CALL VOUCHERS FROM CURRYS

NO

MONTHLY CONTRACTS TO SIGN

NO

CREDIT CHECK

NO

CONNECTION FEE

CALLS FROM ONLY 20p PER MINUTE

HELP AND ADVICE

Visit our website for all the latest news and offers. We'll be there when you need us.

BIGGER CHOICE

We offer a range of choice of the latest products and accessories from the major suppliers to meet every need.

SHOP WHEN YOU WANT

Open 7 days a week. All the latest products and accessories from the major suppliers to meet every need.

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME

Up to 5 years' aftercare support when you buy a Currys product. We'll be there when you need us.

ORDER DIRECT FREEPHONE 0800 304 304

Free delivery on all orders over £50. Free delivery on all orders over £50.

LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT

Find a lower price for the same product and offer, complete, new, used and in stock in a local shop within 7 days of purchase and we'll match it. WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

*A £10 call voucher must be purchased every 30 days to make and receive calls. 120p per minute promotional rate available on £50 voucher. Offer ends 31/3/99. Normal rate 50p per minute on £20 voucher. 30p per minute on £50 voucher.

Look out for the special voucher code on selected products throughout the advertisement. Simply tick the relevant box on any Currys order form to claim your voucher. One voucher only per purchase. Some voucher offers are subject to availability. Excludes mobile phones, MP3 players, digital cameras, DVD players, hi-fi systems, and other specialist equipment. Some voucher offers are subject to availability. Excludes mobile phones, MP3 players, digital cameras, DVD players, hi-fi systems, and other specialist equipment.

COLOMBIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Complete devastation in just 15 seconds

In less than a minute the earthquake in Colombia destroyed almost 60% of the city of Armenia, killing thousands, with countless more trapped in collapsed buildings.

This catastrophe has left over 400,000 homeless, many from the poorest neighbourhoods, leaving them with no shelter, food or water and Colombia has appealed urgently for relief funds.

Y Care International is part of the YMCA who have been active with the homeless in this country since 1978. We are there now minimising the suffering, not just in the cities, but in the many nearby villages and we will be there for years to come.

Please help the survivors rebuild their lives by spending whatever you can today.

OR CALL NOW ON 0800 013 1055

HERE IS MY GIFT TO THE PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

I wish to give £50 £100 £200 £500 £1000

I enclose a cheque payable to Y Care International OR Please debit my _____

Debit Card ☐ Access ☐ Visa ☐ Amex Card ☐ CASH/CHQ/CRD ☐

Card No. _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Y CARE INTERNATIONAL, FREEPOST, London E17 1BB.

50 ذامن لامل

Korda in legal fight to escape ban over drug test

By JOHN GOODSON
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

PETR KORDA, the Czech tennis star, should not be forced to defend himself twice against doping allegations, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

Korda, the 1996 Australian Open champion, wants Mr Justice Lightman to stop the International Tennis Federation appealing against the decision of a tribunal not to ban him. The player tested positive for an anabolic steroid after losing to Tim Henman at Wimbledon last year.

The Czech player, who was not in court, escaped a one-year ban in December when the committee, appointed by the federation, ruled that there were "exceptional circumstances". Korda claimed that he did not know how the drug was present in his urine sample, an explanation that allowed him to get off on a technicality.

The federation wants to impose a ban by taking the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, which deals with complex drugs issues. Korda, who had been injured before Wimbledon, was found positive for nandrolone, the same steroid found last week in the urine of Doug Walker, the European 200 metres champion.

Charles Flint, QC, for Korda, said that the federation, under its own doping regulations, had no right in law to appeal against the decision, which was "final and binding" on both sides. "We say that argument is incompatible with the wording of the anti-doping programme."

"The programme is designed to provide for speedy and final determination of disputes as to allegations of doping before an independent expert committee." The judge is expected to give his verdict this afternoon.

Spice girls of tennis take a beating

The pretty young things are finding it tough against a hard-hitting newcomer, reports Alix Ramsay



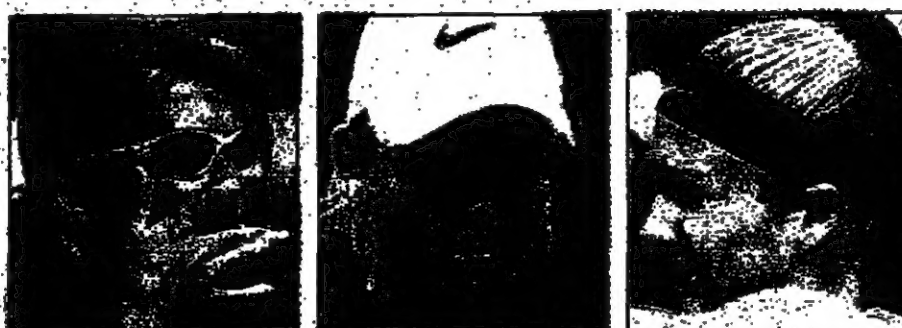
Martina Hingis, the next to take on Mauresmo

MARTINA HINGIS
Born: 1978, Lugano, Switzerland
Height: 5'7" Weight: 115 lb
Career: 19 Grand Slam singles titles
Career earnings: \$2,363,496 (£5.1 million)
Coach: her mother, Melanie Hingis, former Czech No 10
Hobbies: skiing, ice skating, soccer, basketball, swimming, shopping and going to musicals

AMELIE MAURESMO
Born: 1979, Poitiers, France
Height: 5'10" Weight: 130 lb
Career: 1 Grand Slam singles title
Career earnings: \$1,100,000 (£2.4 million)
Coach: Guy Forget
Hobbies: tennis, swimming, shopping, reading, watching movies



Packing a punch: Mauresmo after beating Lindsay Davenport



Bitter spice: Kournikova, left, Dokic and Pierce cannot match Mauresmo's power

THIS season was supposed to herald the age of the tennis Spice Girls, but after just a fortnight their supremacy is being threatened by ten stone of muscle.

Two weeks ago four bright young Lycra-clad things began the Australian Open. Their leader, Martina Hingis, declared that she and Anna Kournikova were the Spice Girls of tennis. The shapely figures of Venus Williams and Mary Pierce have been similarly touted as giving women's tennis astonishing pulling power, along with the rising star Jelena Dokic, 15, of Australia.

Now only one of the band remains. Hingis will tomorrow defend her title against the relatively unknown and formidably built Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo.

The 19-year-old does not quite fit the new mould of women's tennis. But with shoulders that a prop forward would pay money for, there are very few moulds built to accommodate her athletic form.

In the semi-finals she overwhelmed Davenport — and, at 6ft 2in and 124st, the American world No 1 takes some whelming. Mauresmo was too strong, too quick and too determined for one of the most powerful strikers of the ball in the women's game.

Then again, she had the confidence. When asked about the possibility of facing either Davenport or Williams — the other muscular force on the WTA Tour — she announced that she was "the same as them or maybe better".

Davenport was not happy. "The shoulders look huge to me," she said. "A couple of times I thought I was playing a guy she was hitting it so hard. Women's tennis isn't normally played like that."

The chances are, however, that women's tennis will increasingly be played like that, and no one should be less surprised than Davenport.

When Hingis headed for the No 1 spot she did it with nous. Not particularly big or powerful, Hingis thought faster than anyone else could run. Having been trounced, the opposition retreated, regrouped and learned to run that little bit quicker.

Starting to believe in herself, Davenport lost weight, got fit and overtook Hingis. Now Mauresmo has

done the same thing to her and Davenport is not happy.

Not that such hickering is new in tennis. Margaret Court's emergence was greeted with many a raised eyebrow. Tall, athletic and with a penchant for lifting weights, she scythed through the field to claim 24 Grand Slam singles titles, a record that still stands. When Christine Truman, Britain's 1961 Wimbledon finalist, encountered the all-conquering Australian, she mused, on the masculinity of Court's aggressive game.

Twenty years later, Hana Mandlikova had a stand-up row with the muscular Martina Navratilova. Walloped at the French Open, Mandlikova claimed it was "difficult playing against a man — I mean Martina". It took four months and an abject apology before the two were back on speaking terms.

Not that Mauresmo cares what anyone else thinks: in fact, she regards Davenport's comments as something of a compliment. "The fact that I'm strong physically is maybe impressing her," she said.

The world junior champion in 1996, Mauresmo found the step up to the senior game hard. It was, she said, as much mental as physical dealing with the increased workload and the pressure of chasing world-ranking points. So, she learnt how to work harder.

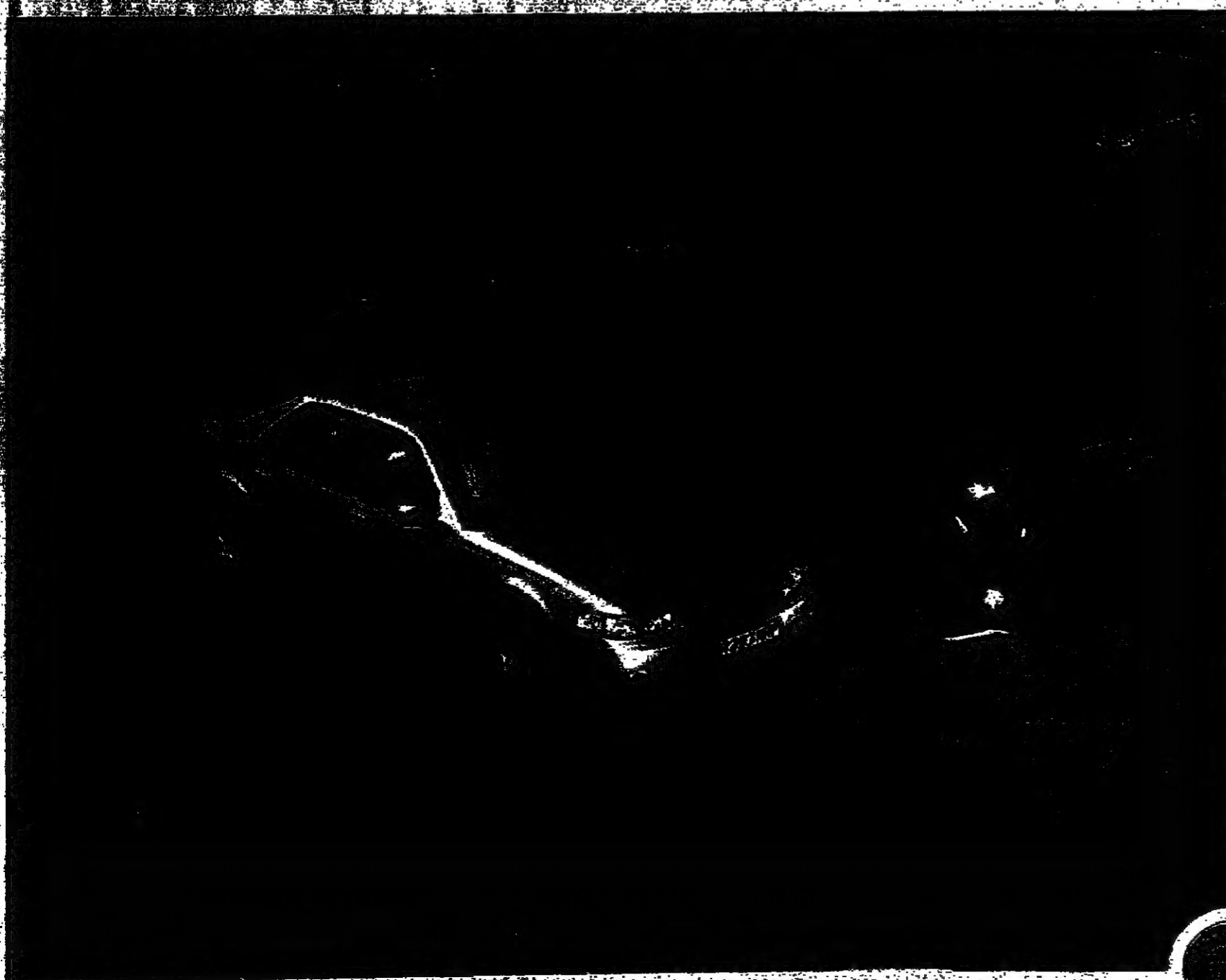
She left the French Federation in 1997 and got herself a new coach in Warwick, Bathford. When he took her so far but no further last year, he was replaced by Christophe Fourmerie.

Mauresmo has stated her intention and that is to get to the top. Her spare time is spent pumping iron to make her the strongest player on the circuit and "the one who stays longest on the court". Even her private life is an open book — she lives with her girlfriend in St Tropez.

Now Mauresmo must try to beat Hingis for the first time and even the ever-confident Hingis admits that she has "a winning record but not a very easy one". Like Navratilova v Evert or Seles v Graf, it is a case of brawn against brain, power against finesse. Maybe the marketing men have something to work with after all.

Sport, page 56

Freedom of choice is everyone's right. Use it wisely!



Of course you can follow the crowd and drive in one of those cars everybody seems to drive. But since you have a choice, why not consider changing to the Cadillac Seville?

You'll get empowering technology with the convincing performance of a 32-valve 305 bhp Northstar V8 combined with sophisticated safety features and technical innovations that give you control whatever the driving situation.

Enjoy the elegant, expressive Cadillac Styling with an award-winning interior and innovative comfort features. All these features and scores more are standard. That's what we call a wise choice.

We invite you to test drive a Seville at your nearest Cadillac Retailer or call 08 45-601 21 21

On the road price £ 39,925.00

Cadillac

Violent creed of bouncer turned cleric

Muslims disown fanatic who shames their faith

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE fundamentalist preacher accused by Yemen of organising terrorist attacks from his London mosque was condemned by Islamic leaders yesterday for tarnishing the image of the Muslim community with his support for violence.

Abu Hamza al-Masri — not his real name — was accused of adopting the title "sheikh" to imply religious qualifications that he does not have and of using his new-found notoriety to influence impressionable youngsters.

Egyptian-born Hamza, 41, used to work as a nightclub bouncer and bodyguard and had an illegitimate child be-

fore gaining British citizenship in 1985 and embracing religion. He claims to have studied civil engineering in Brighton in the early 1980s, but there is no record of that.

Hamza runs Supporters of Shariah, an extremist group dedicated to the rule of Islamic law, by mobile telephone and the Internet, where he attracted attention by offering military training on Web pages depicting a hand grenade.

He preaches at Finsbury Park Mosque in North London on the need to raise good Muslim families. His own son, Muhammad Kamil Mustapha, 17, was arrested in Yem-

en this week suspected of plotting to bomb British targets.

The boy's mother, Valerie, says that she has never seen him since Hamza, then known as Mustapha Kamil, persuaded her to let him take their son to visit his grandparents in Egypt 12 years ago.

Valerie, who refused to reveal her surname, said that when she married Hamza in 1984, he was not a radical until things went "wrong" and he "started to get more into religion". They divorced and Hamza, who claims to have lost his hands and an eye clearing mines with the Mujahidin in Afghanistan, now lives in West London.

He has a son by another woman, claims disability benefit and moves between addresses. One, a terrace council house in Shepherds Bush, is distinctive for its shabby appearance and rubbish-strewn garden.

Prominent Muslims are frustrated at the opprobrium Hamza and other fundamentalist advocates of violence have brought on their community from those who know little of Islam except the extremist views they read in newspapers or hear on television.

Hamza supports a holy war to create a worldwide Islamic state. He admits having been in contact with the leader of the group that kidnapped 16 Westerners in Yemen, although he denies planning terrorism.

He also admits previous contact with the extremist Armed Islamic Group, widely believed to have carried out massacres in Algeria, but says he has since distanced himself from it.

Zaki Badawi, principal of the Muslim College in West London, said there was no question of Hamza having attended any of the important religious centres, such as al-Azhar in Cairo, which confer meaningful religious titles.

"Anybody can call them-



Hamza preaches at a London mosque, but fellow Muslims say they are shocked by a gospel of terrorism that runs contrary to the Koran

selves a sheikh. He has no qualifications whatever that we know of," he said.

"The Muslim community is very alarmed. The feeling is that he is giving a repulsive image of Islam. I get so many calls asking me how can we silence this man, but you cannot. It is a democracy."

"He is a complete nobody but anybody making extreme statements like this and looking as appalling as he does attracts people."

Iqbal Sacranie, secretary-general of the Muslim Council of Britain, deplored "fringe elements" granted a high profile for controversial views which had little support among Brit-

ain's two million Muslims. "What really concerns us is when they talk about killing innocent people, hostage-taking and terrorism. This is not what the Koran teaches and the sort of messages they put out shock the Muslim community. It is dangerous because it creates divisions."

Up to 1,000 people are said to attend Hamza's weekly prayer sessions, after which donations are made. It is not uncommon for Muslim businessmen to make single donations of £5,000 to their local mosques. Hamza charges £1 and £5 for audio and video cassettes of his addresses.

Even around Finsbury

Park, he is a controversial figure. Adam Abdullah, a worker at the Muslim Information Centre less than a hundred yards away, chooses to work

agree with. We do not support terrorist actions at all," he said.

However, the strength of Hamza's support could be

gauged from two young wor-

shippers who gave him their

full support yesterday. They

claimed that the mosque was

frequently visited by police

and health inspectors looking

for a pretext to close it down.

Zaidoon Aburejili, 17, a Palesti-

nian, said: "He teaches us the way of Allah, he does not

preach about terrorism. It is

wrong what they say about

him."

"People at the mosque do

not like it that so many police

come here. How would you

like it if somebody went into a

church and bothered you

when you were praying?"

Toufik, who has prayed at

Finsbury Park for a year, said:

"Abu Hamza is a good man.

He speaks the Koran. What is

a terrorist? A terrorist is a man

shooting a gun. Abu Hamza

does not have any hands. He

cannot be a terrorist."

55 من الإجمالي

Tagged offender relishes electronic ball and chain

Prisoners like feeling of freedom and the Home Office will like the savings, reports Adrian Lee

AT 10am yesterday Simon Hart should have been carrying out mental prison chores. Instead he was drinking into his brother's BMW and making plans to celebrate as he became one of 57 inmates to be released early under a tagging scheme.

For the remaining 60 days of his sentence Hart, 31, must wear the device on his ankle. He is free to work and socialise by day but if he breaks a 7pm-to-7am curfew his tag will alert the authorities.

"It's a bit like having a ball and chain," said Hart, a window cleaner from Sandhurst, Berkshire. "But my freedom is all that matters."

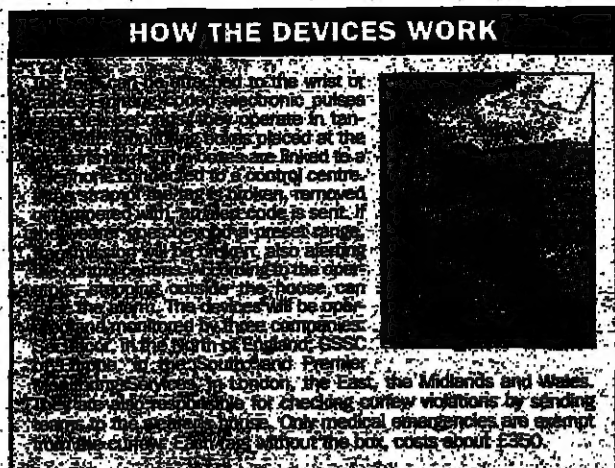
In the next 12 months it is estimated that 30,000 prisoners serving the final stretches of sentences of between three months and four years will be tagged. Hart, who was serving a 15-month sentence at High

Down prison, near Sutton, Surrey, for possessing cannabis, was accepted for tagging after completing five months and two weeks.

The scheme's cost of £35 million a year will easily be offset by savings made from reducing the overcrowded prison population, according to the Home Office.

"Anything that gives me a chance to get out of here is a good idea," Hart said. "The way I look at it is that it is really no different to wearing a watch. It means that I can watch television when I want, have a bath when I want and not have anyone ordering me about for 60 days when I should be in prison." He said he felt no stigma wearing the tag, which can be hidden beneath trousers.

The Home Office said the tags were waterproof and "will not interfere with any lei-



sure activity." "I might even go swimming," Hart said. "I don't care who sees it."

Pilot schemes in Manchester, Norfolk and Berkshire were not entirely successful, although eight out of ten prisoners did comply. But Mr Hart said he was confident he would not reoffend and did not believe the strictures of the curfew would be too difficult to bear. "I have reached the age

when I don't mind staying in at night watching TV. My freedom means too much for me to mess it up."

Yesterday, after giving brief interviews at the prison gates, he was driven to his brother's home for a family reunion. After celebrating with a can of lager, he met his probation officer at 12.30pm, then travelled to his parents' home, where he will spend the curfew. On a

typical prison day he would have been woken at 7am, eaten breakfast in his single cell and begun prison work, helping a maintenance team, before 9am. After lunch, between 12.15pm and 2pm, he would return to work before again being locked in his cell at 4.45pm. From 5.45pm, until prisoners are secured for the night at 8.30pm, he would have been permitted to watch television and associate with other prisoners. During that time he might also have taken a shower.

Mr Hart's stable family background and the offer of regular work helped him to secure one of the first places on the scheme, called Home Detention Curfew. More than half the prisoners who applied for tagging at High Down, where there are 775 inmates of categories A to C, were refused following risk assessment checks. The final decision is made by the prison governor and anyone charged with a crime while wearing a tag is liable to recall. To become eligible, prisoners must have a permanent home address.



Simon Hart leaving prison yesterday, on his way to celebrate freedom with a lager

Inquiry on Branson's Chinese trespass

By Helen Rumbelow

RICHARD BRANSON'S illegal balloon crossing of China is being investigated by the Civil Aviation Authority after a complaint by Beijing.

The British Embassy in Beijing received a formal complaint from the Chinese Government on January 14, which we have passed on to the CAA," the Foreign Office said.

The authority, which has the power to revoke licences, said it was looking into the JCO Global Challenger's trespass.

Will Whitehorn, spokesman for Mr Branson, said that Virgin was confident it would be exonerated by the CAA. "The letter merely says that the Chinese are upset that we didn't land, but the crew wouldn't have survived a landing in the Himalayas," he said.

"The Chinese were very helpful. But due to circumstances with the winds, we missed their co-ordinates of entry."

China's decision to deny entry into its airspace has left three other balloon projects — including the all-British Cable and Wireless team — in a predicament. They have only two weeks before the jet streams that could catapult them around the world break up.

Drivers tell of rising road rage

By Stewart Tindler

MORE than half of London car-users have encountered "road rage" in the past year, according to a survey by Scotland Yard published yesterday.

The poll of more than 4,000 drivers and passengers found that 53 per cent reported incidents of aggression, including 41 per cent who said they had been insulted or gestured at. Eight per cent had been forced to pull over or been driven off the road. Four per cent said that a driver had got out of his vehicle and threatened them.

People aged between 35 and 54 suffered the most incidents: 69 per cent of men and 62 per cent of women reported cases. Those over 55 were the least likely to encounter road rage.

It was the first time that the Yard had included questions on road rage in its annual survey of public attitudes and concerns. Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, suggested that many of the incidents could be attributed to frustration at traffic congestion in the capital. He said that police supported the creation of a London-wide authority and an elected mayor partly because this would bring co-ordination to traffic planning.



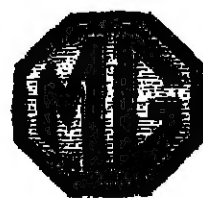
Copyright © 1924 MG Sports Cars

Flying lessons (£199 per month*)

It doesn't cost as much as you think to enjoy the MG experience. To find out why it's unique call 0645 251 251. www.mgcars.co.uk

MG LIFESTYLE - TYPICAL EXAMPLE MGF 1.8i

TERM OF AGREEMENT (MONTHS)	25	FOLLOWED BY 23 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£199.00
CASH PRICE**	£18,085.00	FOLLOWED BY AN OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT†	£11,860.05
LESS DEPOSIT	£4,716.38	(GUARANTEED MINIMUM FUTURE VALUE‡)	
AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£13,368.62	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£21,132.43
TOTAL CHARGE FOR CREDIT***	£3,347.43	APR	13.60%
FIRST MONTHLY PAYMENT††	£279.00		



*Plus Deposit, Acceptance Fee and Optional Final Payment. **Subject to availability. On the Road Cash Price shown is correct at the time of going to print and includes 12 months Road Fund Licence, a First Registration Fee of £25.00 (VAT at 17.5%), number plates and delivery to dealership and is subject to change without notice. ***Total Charge for Credit (in addition to monthly payments) includes an Acceptance Fee of £20 payable with the first Monthly Payment and an Option to Purchase Fee of £25 payable with the Optional Final Payment. If you elect to purchase the vehicle at the end of the agreement, (shown including £300.00 Acceptance Fee, 17.5% VAT including £25.00 Option to Purchase Fee, 18% you return the vehicle at the end of the agreement, further charges will be incurred if the Maximum Contractual Mileage (25,000) has been exceeded and/or the vehicle has not been kept in good condition. Excess mileage will be charged at 11.75p per mile Inc. VAT. Finance is provided subject to status and is available to over 18s only. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Finance terms shown are only available on agreements of 25 months term with a 10% minimum deposit, are subject to change without notice and are correct at the time of going to print. Certain categories of business user may be excluded. Written quotations are available upon request. Finance is provided by MG Financial Services, a trading division of Rover Financial Services (GB) Limited, Box 27, International House, Edenhall Lane, Birmingham B37 7YQ.



A hectic lifestyle and not always sticking to a sensible diet could make you more susceptible to nasty cold viruses. Now Zinc Defence's advanced formula helps support your immune system's resistance to infection.

HELPING YOU FIGHT OFF COLDS.

Tomorrow in **the times** magazine**DIAMOND's**
Diary of Courage

'If I'd any idea what the last 20 months would be like I would have asked them to nick my jugular with a scalpel'

The Saturday
Times
Only 50p



Why Banks is wary of envoys bearing gifts

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Tony Banks became Sports Minister, he was unprepared for the torrent of cheap gifts handed over by visiting ministers and officials. Mounds of scarves, ties, mugs and other sporting memorabilia adorn the shelves of his office at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

Interviewed by Radio 4 about the "gifts for favours" scandal enveloping the International Olympic Committee, Mr Banks bemoaned the culture of present-giving that permeates politics and sport.

His office off Trafalgar Square, he told the *Today* programme, "was full of bric-a-brac and 'anyone is welcome to come along and have a look at it'. The *Times* took up the invitation and examined the booty that gives rise to his title of the Government's King of Tack.

Mr Banks's 18 months of ministerial experience has left him with more than 50 gifts. Under Whitehall rules, ministers can keep gifts worth less than £140. If they want to keep anything worth more, they must pay the difference. If the minister does not want a gift,



Banks finds swapping presents "embarrassing"

it is kept in store and sold several years later.

When Mr Banks's officials were asked if any of his gifts exceeded £140, they smirked and said: "See for yourself." Although the minister would never say it, the quality is, well, mixed. "All this is very unlikely to find its way to my home," he admitted. "Everything I have got is there in my room."

He finds the custom an awkward one. "I am vaguely embarrassed by these presents. There is an enormous exchange of tokens that people feel obliged to do, and no one knows how to stop it."

"If you do not reciprocate, you feel that you will be consid-

ered discourteous." He returns the favours with House of Commons gifts — cufflinks, make-up compacts and, whisky glasses — and the National Portrait Gallery's book of Sporting Heroes. "It is a process completely like sending Christmas cards: you wish it had never started in the first place."

Rarely do ministers receive gifts worth more than £140 and often they prove problematic. Sir George Young, known as the bicycling baronet, was given more bikes than he knew what to do with while Minister of Transport in the last Government.

When John Major was Prime Minister, he was given a horse by President Niyazov of Turkmenistan for his 50th birthday in 1993. The three-year-old colt remained in Turkmenistan for many months as officials struggled to organise its journey to Britain. The delay angered the President and much diplomatic embarrassment ensued.

After a long and tortuous journey via Moscow, the stallion reached Britain in 1994. It proved too small and unruly for duties with the Household Cavalry and is being looked after by a breeder.



"The quality is, well, mixed": James Landale with "the King of Tack's" memorabilia

shortage
transp
urgery:

crisis ahead

2 NIGHT OF

£19
Sleeps

Central Reservations
before 04.02.99
quote reference P184

International Care and Relief
Registered Charity No. 298316

SALE

PC WORLD
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE



**SAVE
£100**

350MHz PROCESSOR

8.6Gb HARD DISK

56k v.90 MODEM

**8Mb 3D AGP ATI
RAGE PRO
GRAPHICS**

PC WORLD SALE PRICE

£799 EX VAT

Advent

- Advent is our own brand, built here in the UK — which is why we can offer unbeatable value.
- Advent PCs are built using quality branded components offering the reliability and compatibility demanded by serious PC users.
- Advent Personal Computers deliver the unbeatable combination of high performance computing at factory prices.

**HIGH SPEC,
HIGH QUALITY,
FACTORY PRICES**

Advent Intel® Pentium® II Processor 350MHz

- 64Mb (Fast 100MHz) SDRAM
- 8.6Gb Seagate Hard Disk
- 512k Cache Memory
- Panasonic 2x DVD-ROM Drive
- 56k v.90 Modem
- 15" Monitor
- Windows 98 and much more.
- MODEL: 8582
- Was £899
- Was £849, EX VAT

Advent Intel® Celeron™ Processor 400MHz

- 64Mb (Fast 100MHz) SDRAM
- 8.6Gb Seagate Hard Disk
- 512k Cache Memory
- 56k v.90 Modem
- 15" Monitor
- Windows 98 and much more.
- MODEL: 8572

PC WORLD PRICE **£799** EX VAT

Advent Intel® Pentium® II Processor 400MHz

- 64Mb (Fast 100MHz) SDRAM
- 8.6Gb Seagate Hard Disk
- 512k Cache Memory
- 56k v.90 Modem
- 15" Monitor
- Windows 98 and much more.
- MODEL: 8597

PC WORLD PRICE **£899** EX VAT

Advent Intel® Pentium® II Processor 450MHz

- 64Mb (Fast 100MHz) SDRAM
- 8.6Gb Seagate Hard Disk
- 512k Cache Memory
- 56k v.90 Modem
- 15" Monitor
- Windows 98 and much more.
- MODEL: 8622

PC WORLD PRICE **£1049** EX VAT

free serve for free unlimited internet access

Pick up a free disc in-store today! with this voucher

The fast and easy way to a fully featured internet package for the cost of a local call

www.freeserve.net

We won't be beaten on price

Try us and if you find the same offer elsewhere at a lower price in any other local retail store, we'll refund the difference. (subject to our standard terms and conditions)

PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL **0990 464 464**

APR 19.9%

COLOMBIA

Earthquake Emergency Appeal

Over 1,000 people are now reported dead with over 1,500 injured following the worst earthquake to hit Colombia in 60 years. Authorities say the figure will rise because emergency services, already stretched, have not yet been able to reach people buried alive in rural areas.

Emergency teams have been joined by local survivors to shift tons of rubble with their bare hands. Whilst the major issue now is search and rescue there will, in the coming weeks, be a desperate need for emergency relief.

Seventeen towns in the Armenia area of Colombia have been badly hit, two having been literally wiped off the map. Hospitals are overrun. The region's transport routes are in chaos, which will have a major impact on the area's main industry, coffee production.

ICR's Emergency Appeal Fund needs your donations as quickly as possible so that we can assist relief organisations on the ground to meet the overwhelming plight of so many desperate people.

Please give as much as you can.

Thank you.

Name _____
(Full name & address in CAPITALS)
Address _____
Postcode _____

I wish to give: £250 ☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ Other ☐

I enclose my cheque made payable to ICR. I would like to give by Mastercard/Visa — please charge the above amount to my account number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Donate by phone 01892 519619
FREEPOST TW 3028, 27 Church Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN11 1BR

International Care and Relief
Registered Charity No. 298316

Handwritten note: 5000 من الجاهل

Shortages put transplant surgery at risk

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE future of organ transplants is threatened by a growing shortage of donors and specialists capable of doing the life-saving operations, the Royal College of Surgeons of England says in a report today.

Transplantation is now the preferred treatment for most cases of major organ failure and waiting lists are growing all the time, but the number of organs available is diminishing, while surgeons in training are showing less interest in making a career in this highly skilled field.

Sir Peter Morris, Nuffield Professor of Surgery at Oxford University, who chaired the working party that drew up the report, said: "It is not an exaggeration to say that the provision of organ transplantation as a service is on a knife-edge — the two major problems being an inadequate supply of organs to meet the demand and an acute shortage of transplant surgeons."

The most recent figures show that there were 4,526 patients waiting for kidneys, 172 for livers, 196 for hearts, 99 for lungs, and 187 for livers.

The shortage among organ donors is partly due to the reduction in road accident

deaths over the past two decades. They have fallen by 2,000 a year to about 3,700. In addition, the number dying of brain haemorrhage has fallen by 3,000 a year over the same period. People who die in this way are the largest source of donated organs.

The shortage among surgeons is largely due to their anti-social working hours and the fact that the operations, although highly complex, have become so routine that they give poor job satisfaction and little kudos.

Most donors are accident victims or patients who die in intensive care units and by the time their organs can be removed and the recipient made ready for the operation it is usually very late in the day. More than 98 per cent of heart transplant operations take place after midnight.

The high level of nocturnal activity makes it difficult for surgeons to maintain the same workload as they grow older, the report says. "Moreover, now that surgical techniques are well refined, the time has passed when reputations could be built on the service aspects of transplant surgery."

Because of the shortage of donors an increasing number

of organs are now being taken from older people. Those have less chance of working successfully, which also discourages young surgeons. "Trainees tend to view transplantations at best as a part but not a central part of their career commitment."

Kidney transplant surgeons have least job satisfaction. Their work is so specialised that they often cannot do other operations. There are 67 consultants doing kidney transplants but students are dropping out of courses. A recent study showed that 40 per cent of students studying kidney transplantation decided not to make it a career. The specialty is so understaffed that those doing it usually have to work one night in two.

Liver transplant surgeons do a range of other types of related surgery and have greater job satisfaction. There are, however, only 22 of them.

The report calls for the creation of a national transplant service to oversee the way in which organs are collected and sent to recipients. It wants to see one specialist kidney unit set up to cover each two million of the population, and a special advisory group created for each organ.



Beth Wagstaff, who died peacefully at home surrounded by her family after a long battle against breast cancer. Her funeral takes place today

Founder of breast cancer trust dies

BETH WAGSTAFF, who founded a breast cancer charity in memory of a friend, has died from the illness at the age of 59. She was discharged from hospital last Friday and died at 7am yesterday at her home in Hertford.

Her family were at her bedside. Jon Lansman, 41, her husband, said: "She died peacefully and was calm right up until the end. I was with her all night and her parents and brothers were there shortly before she died. The children woke up and came in just moments afterwards. It could not have happened in a nicer way."

Ms Wagstaff, who had three chil-

Claudia Joseph reports on the end of a charity champion's battle against illness

dren — Max, 11, Molly, 8, and Benjamin, 7 — was diagnosed with breast cancer in December 1994, almost three years after she first attended Guy's Hospital in London with a lump in her breast. Her husband is pursuing her medical negligence claim against Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust for allegedly failing to diagnose the disease.

Ms Wagstaff, who was assistant

chief executive of Hertfordshire County Council, founded The Lavender Trust in memory of Ruth Picardie, who chronicled her own illness in a series of newspaper articles.

Her funeral takes place today in the village of Brickendon and her husband has requested that, rather than send flowers, mourners send donations to The Lavender Trust.

Bill Ogley, chief executive of Hert-

fordshire County Council, said: "This is a tragedy for Beth's family and our thoughts are with them. It is also a great loss for the council. Beth was an enormous asset with her skill and enthusiasm. She will be greatly missed."

Rosemary Birch, a nurse who helped care for Ms Wagstaff at St Thomas' Hospital, said: "We were all very sad to hear of Beth's death. She was an extremely courageous lady."

Donations can be made to Breast Cancer Care on 0171-384 2984 or by sending a cheque to The Lavender Trust, Breast Cancer Care, Freeport LON644, London, SW6 4BR.

'Crisis ahead' over retiring Asian GPs Brain disease drug hope

By NICK NUTTALL

CERTAIN areas of Britain could lose a quarter of their GPs because so many Asian doctors are about to retire, a study has found. Of the 25,333 doctors in general practice, 4,192 — 16.5 per cent — qualified in South Asia before coming here. About two thirds of these will retire within the next ten years.

Areas that have few Asian doctors, including parts of the West Country, are unlikely to suffer. But other places, where half the GPs qualified in Asia, are facing severe problems. "In some health authorities there will be a loss of one, in four general practitioners."

Those health authorities with the greatest number of such doctors are in some of the most deprived areas and have experienced the most difficulty in filling vacancies," says the study published in the *British Medical Journal*.

The authors, Donald Taylor, of Duke University in North Carolina, and Aneez Esmail, of the University of Manchester, are calling on planners to act urgently to counter the threat to health care. One area of concern is the falling number of students wanting to study medicine, and the relatively high number dropping out of their degrees or leaving the profession when young.

"Another issue is the expected retire-

ment of doctors who qualified in South Asian medical schools and emigrated in the 1960s and 1970s primarily to fill a perceived staff shortage in an expanding NHS," say the team.

The researchers used data collected in 1992 which logged the country of qualification for British GPs. They tracked the movements of the doctors to assess the impact of their retirement on different health authorities.

The hardest-hit authority was likely to be Barking and Havering in East London and Essex. More than 56 per cent of its GPs qualified from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India or Pakistan. By 2007, half of these will have retired. Next hardest-

hit will be Redbridge and Waltham Forest, where 44 per cent of the GPs are of Asian background; half of these are likely to retire in the next eight years. Other hard-hit authorities include Walsall, Salford, City and East London, Brent and Harrow, and Wigan.

Mohammad Causdry, 62, who qualified as a GP in 1966 and has practised in Chatham, Kent, ever since, said that, with so many doctors nearing retirement age, there would be severe problems. These days, young men were less likely to come over to work as doctors because they had to pass an examination in the English language before being able to register, he said.

By HELEN RUMBLOW

A NEW drug treatment for brain cancer was made available on the National Health Service yesterday.

The treatment is the most promising advance in two decades for the most common and most lethal form of brain cancer affecting 3,000 people in Britain every year.

Previously those with "glioma" tumours had a 10 per cent chance of survival, and chemotherapy was barely effective with some terrible side effects.

Trials were carried out on people with advanced brain cancer, which can cause personality changes, speech loss, blindness and paralysis.

In a third, their tumours were shrunk by the drug, and in half the drug stopped their tumours growing.

"It transforms their quality of life, which is amazing in a field where there has been really very little hope," said Ed Newlands, Professor of Cancer Medicine at Charing Cross Hospital, at the launch of the drug at the Cancer Research

Campaign in London. However, it will cost about £1,200 a month for a course of treatment, said Schering-Plough, which has bought the licence from the Cancer Research Campaign.

Tests have begun to see if the drug has more powerful effects if used for early stages of the disease, and if it can offer hope to those with skin cancer. The drug has been in development for 20 years by Malcolm Stevens, working for the Cancer Research Campaign at Nottingham University.

SPECIAL 2 NIGHT OFFER, VALID 7 DAYS A WEEK



£19.95 PER ROOM PER NIGHT

Travelodge Benefits:

- Luxury Hypnos beds
- Spacious en-suite rooms
- Free parking
- Tea and Coffee making facilities
- Free newspaper
- Satellite TV in every room
- Friendly restaurants
- Under £5.00 per person per night with a family of four

£19.95 all in.
Sleeps up to a family of 4.

At Travelodge our en-suite rooms can comfortably sleep up to 2 adults and 2 children — that's under £5 per person per night.

To take advantage of our special two night offer, call us now on the number below. There's nowhere better to stay — for £19.95 all in.

Call Central Reservations before 04.02.99
Please quote reference P184a

0800 850 950

54 PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

SCOTLAND AND THE NORTH: Burton in Kendal (M6 J35/36), Chester (Northop Hall), Doncaster, Dumfries, Dundee, Edinburgh East (A1/B8415), Hull (South Covel), Kilmarnock, Kilmory, Manchester North (M62 J18/19), Pontefract (Barnsley), Sheffield, Skipton, Worsley, THE MIDLANDS: Ayrton, Bedworth (Nuneaton), Blyth (Notts) (A1/M614), Burton South, Grantham (New Fox), Grantham North (A1/B1174), Grantham South (A1/B1174), Lincoln, Ludlow, North Muskham, Northampton (Upton Way), Retford, Rugby, Stratford (Alcester), Telford, Wellington, EAST ANGLIA/SOUTH EAST: Canterbury (North), Farningham (Colchester), Slough, Thrapston, THE SOUTH: Aiton (Farnham), Bedford (South West), Bognor Regis (Farnham), Exeter (M5 J30), Liphook (Hants), Littlehampton, Olchampton East, Olchampton West, Oxford (A34/A44), Stonehouse, Sutton Scotney North (A34/A302), Sutton Scotney South (A34/A303), Taunton, Warrminster (A350/A36), WALES AND IRELAND: Belfast, Cork, Monmouth (A40/A448), St Clears (Carmarthen), Wrexham.

Terms and Conditions: Prices are per room per night. This offer is valid Monday-Sunday and is based on a minimum of 2 consecutive nights at the same Travelodge. No refunds will be given for early departures. Children must be under 12 years. This offer is subject to availability and is only valid at participating sites. This offer can only be redeemed by quoting P184a. A limited number of promotional rooms are available on a daily basis (based on 2 consecutive nights) and must be booked before 04.02.99. This offer is valid from 01.02.99. Customers must redeem by 31.03.99. Offer not valid between 12.02.99 to 20.02.99. Offer is only available for new bookings. This offer is not available for group bookings of more than 5 rooms per night. Minimum 2 night charge applies to all post 4pm cancellations. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount scheme (shareholder or otherwise). This offer cannot be redeemed for one night only. VAT included in the price at 12.5%. *at most sites.

Travelodge

FPDSavills

SAVILLS PRIVATE FINANCE

"The leading specialists in six and seven figure mortgage finance"

3.49%

(APR 7.2% Variable)

fixed to

1 MARCH 2001

SAVILLS PRIVATE FINANCE
0171 330 8550

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.
The APR is based on a typical example of 25 year endowment loan of £100,000 secured on a £150,000 property value with a valuation fee of £190, solicitors fee £100 (representative), an arrangement fee £295, and a deeds release fee of £100. 22 monthly payments of £282.02 followed by 278 payments of £662.41, calculated at the standard variable rate, assumed to be 7.70%. Total amount payable £279,919.42. All payments net of MARS at 10% on the first £30,000 of the loan. A redemption fee of 4.5% of the amount redeemed will be charged if you redeem your mortgage within the first 5 years. Loans are subject to status and additional security may be required. Credit broker fees of up to 1% may be charged. Written quotations available on request from Savills Private Finance, 25 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7EE.

مكتبة القرآن



Ffion Jenkins at the Royal Festival Hall, London, for yesterday's conference on business money for the arts. William Hague's wife, who works for the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, heard Colin

Firm backing for arts

Tweedy, her chief executive, announce that sponsorship rose 20 per cent last year to a record £115 million. Peter

Ainsworth, Shadow Culture Minister, said: "The most curious thing about the arts in this country is the need

constantly to justify their existence, as though they were an embarrassment. This is all the more odd as we are rather better at the arts than some other countries that share none of our inhibitions."

Covent Garden cuts opera and ballet prices

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Opera House is to slash ticket prices, stay open during the day and take opera and ballet into the community. Stung by the controversy over the £78 million of National Lottery money going towards its £214 million new building, it has finally acted to counter accusations of arrogance and mismanagement. The building, due to open in November, will offer free chamber music concerts, tours and exhibitions as well as operas and ballets for considerably less than before.

Top prices for full-length operas, such as the opening production of Verdi's *Falstaff*, will be about £100 less than in the old building, bringing them down to £150. The best tickets for ballet have been cut from £70 to £60. More than half the seats will cost £40 or less for all but the most expensive oper-

as and £30 or less for ballet. Although Covent Garden always had tickets for only a few pounds, the new prices will greatly extend the range of those between £6 and £45.

The opera house also guarantees that 20 per cent of the tickets in any range will be available to the general public in the past the most glittering productions were sold to the "great and good" and corporate members long before others could request them.

Michael Kaiser, Covent Garden's recently appointed chief executive, emphasised that the organisation was on budget and on schedule. The company had prepared a two-year budget that showed it could break even, he said, partly by reducing the administrative staff of 850 to 520, with a further 150 casual members.

Previously, Mr Kaiser said,

the company was spending "too much on admin and too little on art. We have to remember what our mission is: ultimately, it's about performance, not administration."

The theatre has lurched from one financial crisis to another amid scathing criticisms of mismanagement in reports by the theatre director Sir Richard Eyre and the Culture Select Committee. While accusations of arrogance and elitism stained its image, it also had to contend with the threat of closure when staff refused to accept working conditions.

However, the new board, under Sir Colin Southgate, persuaded the Arts Council to increase its subsidy from £14.4 million last year to £16 million from next April in return for pledges on public access, lower ticket prices and tighter management controls.

Expressing a determination to create "one of the great theatres of the world", Mr Kaiser said: "People will be able to take tours, attend free concerts, sit in the restaurants and bars." It will be open six days a week during the daytime, between 11am and 3pm.

"We have made great strides with the pricing structure," he said. The lowest prices would be available when people most wanted to come — Fridays and Saturdays — when the top price would go down to £35 for opera, against the previous £47.50, and £30 for ballet against the previous £70.

Central to Covent Garden's plans is the studio theatre for educational work and "hand-drops" of events. The programme includes instructing teachers from state schools on the art of teaching opera and ballet, and working with children to create their own opera.

Programmes will go beyond Covent Garden to hospitals and hospices.

Stage is set for a grand revival

BY RODNEY MILES
OPERA CRITIC

THE programme for the ROH's reopening is good news for those who fear that box-office demands were going to mean wall-to-wall Tosca. True, there is a revival of the much-loved *Bohème* early in the new year. Harkink conducting the award-winning *Metastaser* with John Tomlinson, and a starry *Rosencavalier* revival — the sort of international fare the ROH is there for.

Angela Gheorgiu and Roberto Alagna, the hottest properties in the business, will sing Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*. Opening the season with that other hot property, Bryn Terfel, in a new production of *Falstaff* — with the well-tested team of Harkink and the director Graham Vick — is the sort of coup that the re-launch needs, and prove it's not a one-off. Terfel returns to sing in *The Flying Dutchman*.

There are also a revival of Britten's *Gavaine*, and Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre*, in the Peter Sellars production from Salzburg.

The "other" *Otello* — Rossini's — will be performed for the first time at the ROH, and Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito*, conducted by Nicholas McGegan, is another Salzburg import. But we will have to wait until next spring for what may well turn out to be an important premiere: Martin's *Greek Passion*, based on Kazantzakis's *Christ Recrucified*.

So, a really well-balanced programme. Add the activities, many free, in the two new studio spaces, the hugely PC education programmes and enough "surround" content to loosen corporate purse-strings, and you have to admit the ROH is back in business.

We've put on a lot, without piling on the pounds.



306 Meridian, from only £11,995*

With 2 Years 0% Finance* and 2 Years Free Insurance*

What a spread! Just how many features can you squeeze into a car? The Peugeot 306 Meridian 1.4 Special Edition includes ABS brakes, power steering, electric sunroof*, remote control stereo radio/cassette, metallic paint and a leather trimmed interior. We've also found room for plip central locking, an engine immobiliser, electric front windows, heated door mirrors, driver's airbag and body coloured bumpers.

Help yourself to 2 Years 0% Finance* and 2 Years Free Insurance* while you're at it. Shameful overindulgence?

Perhaps. But the 306 Meridian cuts a sleek and stylish figure on the road. A distinctly lean £11,995* (Air-conditioned Meridian, from £12,345*). The 306 Meridian Special Edition. Truly, a car you'll love handling. Call 0345 306 306.

www.peugeot.co.uk

306
PEUGEOT



PRICES ARE ON THE ROAD AND APPLY TO 306 MERIDIAN 1.4 LITRE PETROL, 5 DOOR WITH SUNROOF AT £11,995 AND 306 MERIDIAN 1.6 LITRE PETROL 5 DOOR WITH AIR CONDITIONING IN LIEU OF SUNROOF AT £12,345. TYPICAL 0% FINANCE EXAMPLE: 306 MERIDIAN 1.4 LITRE PETROL, 5 DOOR WITH SUNROOF ON THE ROAD PRICE* £11,995.00. EXPIRES 31.03.99. APR 5.9%, 30 MONTHS FINANCE. 24.9% APR. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £12,995.00. TOPPER SUBJECT TO STATUS. OVER 150 DAYS. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM PSA FINANCE PLC, VERNON HOBBS, SUTTON ASH, LONDON W20A 2QQ. 0% FINANCE IS AVAILABLE TO REPAIR BUYERS ONLY AND APPLIES TO ALL 306 MODELS EXCLUDING 306 GTI-R. FORTY PERCENT TO SIXTY PERCENT. CONDITIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE INSURER AND APPLIES TO ALL 306 MERIDIAN MODELS EXCLUDING ESTATE. *AVAILABLE ON 306 MERIDIAN 1.4 LITRE PETROL, 5 DOOR MODELS ONLY. SERVICE INTERVALS ARE 5 YEARS OR 20,000 MILES FOR PETROL AND 2 YEARS OR 10,000 MILES FOR DIESEL. VEHICLES APPLIES TO ALL VEHICLES FIRST REGISTERED FROM 1ST AUGUST 1998. DETAILS CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. OFFER ENDS 31ST MARCH 1999.

THE COST OF AN EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT	
Prices for the best seats	
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE	£150
ROYAL BALLETS	£120
ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE	£100
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE	£80
ROYAL DRAMATIC SOCIETY	£60
ROYAL COMEDY THEATRE	£50
ROYAL COURT THEATRE	£40
ROYAL YOUNG VICTORIA THEATRE	£30
ROYAL DOCKLANDS THEATRE	£20
ROYAL ALBERT HALL	£10

*The higher prices for Gala Evenings

So you haven't claimed on your home insurance recently?

Save up to **20%** with Legal & General

Our home insurance gives you a no-claims discount and a range of valuable benefits. Phone now for your individual quotation. Full written details available on request.

free pen when you call

0500 66 55 55

Open 8pm Weekdays, 9am - 1pm Saturday. Please quote code: 8035-SP when you phone.

For your protection calls are usually recorded and randomly monitored.

Visit our website at www.LandG.com

Legal & General trust us to deliver

This insurance is provided by Legal & General Insurance Ltd, Legal & General Direct Ltd, Registered in England: No. 2703899. Registered office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 3TR.

LOOKING FOR THE BEST

RE-PAY MOBILES MAKING GETTING MOBILE EASY. NO BILLS. NO CREDIT CHECK. NO CONTRACT TO SIGN. JUST BUY AIRTIME VOUCHERS TO PAY AS YOU GO.

RE-PAY DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE. Up to 150 minutes. Up to 50 minutes. Up to 20 minutes. Includes first 15 minutes FREE.

79.99

GO

Hague needs to alter style and tactics

Leading article, page 25

Peter RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

By PETER RIDDELL

By a 67 to 21 per cent margin, the public believes that the issue of Northern Ireland has been handled well.

Overall, 40 per cent believe that the Government has kept its promises, with 47 per cent thinking it has not. A significant minority of Labour supporters, 31 per cent, think the Government has not kept its promises, while 57 per cent believe that it has.

The poll showed a sharp

rise -- from 34 to 49 per cent -- in the number of people mentioning the NHS as among the most important issues in Britain today.

□ MORI interviewed 960 adults on the Government's performance between January 22 and 25.

fund to find money for nurses. These doubts offer some hope to the Tories that Labour is not impregnable and is potentially vulnerable. It is a question of timing and depends, of course, on the depth and length of the economic downturn. However, the Opposition has to be in a position to benefit which, at present, it clearly is not.

The stupidest reaction to the poll would be to panic, and William Hague, if not all his MPs, is too sensible to do that. There is no simple, or quick, way out of the Tories' current predicament. Whenever Mr Hague does gradually to reshape his frontbench team over the next few years, a dramatic reshuffle would be a waste of time, and almost certainly make no impact on the public. Equally, questioning Mr Hague's own leadership is beside the point.

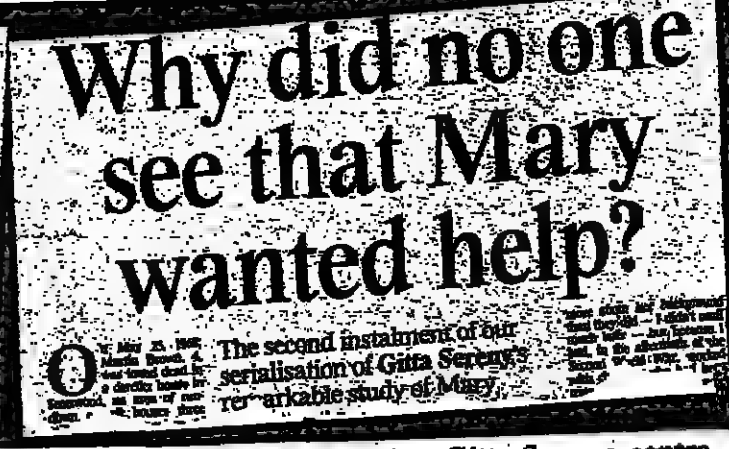
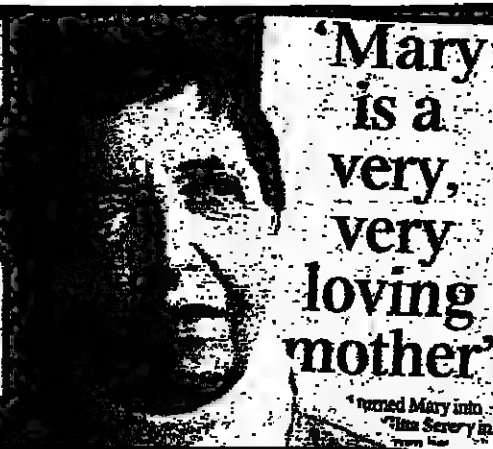
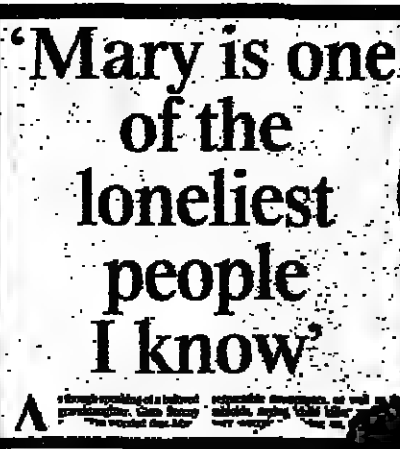
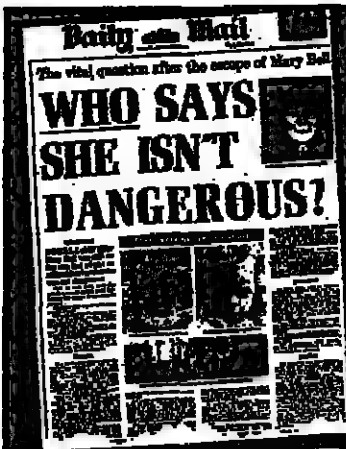
His own personal ratings

0%	Interest Free Credit on all Three Systems	NO Deposit Order now. NO credit to save	26%
NO Payments (till January 2000)		NO Payments (till January 2000)	
NO Interest 1 year money back guarantee		NO Interest 1 year money back guarantee	

0%	Interest Free Credit on all Three Systems	NO Deposit Order now. NO credit to save	26%
NO Payments (till January 2000)		NO Payments (till January 2000)	
NO Interest 1 year money back guarantee		NO Interest 1 year money back guarantee	



Mary Bell, the child killer, left: a tabloid reaction to her escape from jail in 1977; and how *The Times* last year serialised *Cries Unheard*, the biography by the author Gitta Sereny, centre



Last Spring *The Times* serialised *Cries Unheard*, Gitta Sereny's disturbing biography of the child killer Mary Bell. In the ensuing controversy, *The Times* was accused of breaching press watchdog rules banning payments to convicted criminals. The Press Complaints Commission rejected the complaint, saying the book was in the public interest. But concerns were raised about later allegations of media harassment against Bell and her daughter, who learned of her mother's identity for the first time. On Wednesday peers debated the lessons to be learnt from the case. Lord Wakeham, chairman of the PCC, insisted that *The Times* had been right to publish.

Reports: James Landale

Street of shame or real life?

'The time has come to think of big fines'
— Lord McNally

THE debate was opened by Lord McNally, the Liberal Democrat peer who initiated it. He quoted from two journalists. "Brian MacArthur, writing in *The Times* on May 1, had this to say about the press treatment of Mary Bell and her family in the spring of 1998: 'It was the fault of the tabloid editors who have mercilessly hounded her. It need not have happened and there were many journalists around me who were ashamed of their trade. Harsh words indeed.'"

"But Mr Roy Greenslade, writing in *The Guardian* on July 23, 1998 following the PCC adjudication, wrote: 'In siding with the editors who have published — and paid handsomely for it — the stories of convicted criminals, the PCC shows it lives in the real world.'"

Lord McNally said: "Two journalists, both of whom I respect, and two different views: street of shame or the real world. It is because there are conflicting opinions and un-

answered questions that I ask this question tonight. He asked the Government to say whether those responsible for Mary Bell's supervision had informed ministers that she was writing a book. "If ministers were not involved and misjudgments occurred at lower levels, have lessons been learnt? Secondly, can the minister tell us why the injunction which carries the name of a 'Mary Bell Order' was so late in applying to the very persons it was initially designed to protect?"

Lord McNally voiced concern at the rule preventing the PCC holding an inquiry without an initial complaint being made. "I believe the commission should change its rules. To allow a situation to arise where newspaper reporters are camped outside the house of a 14-year-old girl supposedly under the protection of the courts, in flagrant abuse of the PCC code, is tantamount to a fireman watching a house burn down but doing nothing because no one inside has dialled 999."

He said the PCC was improving and growing in public respect. "But when it fails, it fails spectacularly. It fails because journalists, editors and publishers throw self-regulation and codes of conduct to the

wind when they think a story is sensational enough to abandon all restraint. I believe the time has come to consider sanctions of a hefty fine — I mean seven figures — to deter breaches of the code."

Lord Williams of Mostyn, the Home Office Minister, said an internal Home Office inquiry had found that there were occasions when ministers might have been informed about the Mary Bell case but were not. He said the Permanent Secretary had instituted new guidelines for civil servants about keeping ministers better informed.

'The press must put its house in order'
— Lord Lester

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, a Liberal Democrat, noted that from 2000 the Human Rights Act would come into force, forcing the courts to balance free speech and privacy. "It is important that the PCC is given the power to provide effective remedies so that the courts are only involved in the last resort and not as a matter of course. The media clause which the Government wrote into the Human Rights Act is a great incentive for the press to give powers to the PCC since the privacy code will be taken into account by judges when they decide upon what remedies to grant."

"I am convinced that the right to personal privacy is not sufficiently protected, certainly for private persons like Mary Bell's daughter. Second, unless the PCC is given powers to provide effective remedies, especially compensatory remedies in

cases where they may or may not be a victim complaining, the courts will have to intervene. I hope that one of the lessons that is learnt by the press is that it must put its house in order by giving greater powers to the PCC."

In his maiden speech, Lord Neill of Bladen, chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, voiced concern about giving the PCC powers to enforce financial penalties. "My difficulty is that as soon as one gives that sort of power to the PCC, it is inevitably turned into a quasi-judicial tribunal where the place is packed, and there is no right to refuse to let lawyers come and argue their cases."

Leading article, page 25

Wakeham says Times abided by press code

LORD WAKEHAM, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, reiterated his view that *The Times* had acted in accordance with the code when it serialised the Mary Bell biography.

"It was not a moral judgment about whether the book should have been written. It was not a judgment about Mary Bell's decision to accept money. It was not a judgment about whether it is right or wrong to pay criminals. It was a judgment made only on the basis of a code which says that newspapers can pay criminals — either directly or indirectly — provided that there is a public interest in doing so and payment is necessary for that to be done."

He added: "The commission found the public interest case put forward by *The Times* in this case to be overwhelming. It was, in a nutshell, this: does the criminal justice system actually deliver justice to children as damaged as Mary Bell was and, if not, how can it be improved?"

"I have to say that the public interest oozes from every pore of the book and in turn from the extracts from it which were serialised in the newspaper. They included circumstances of how a child who grew up in surroundings of depravity came to be a murderer: the connection between Bell's own crime and the abuse to which she was herself subjected; and the first authoritative account of how the



Wakeham said public interest case was overwhelming

penal system deals with child criminals. All those matters were of genuine public interest. That is why we believed *The Times* was right to serialise the book and did not breach the code in doing so. What the author had to say was important and deserved a wide audience."

But he added: "What disturbed me far more is what followed: namely the alleged harassment of Mary Bell and her daughter and the apparent fact that Mary Bell was forced to reveal her identity to her daughter for the first time. The who grew up in surroundings of depravity came to be a murderer: the connection between Bell's own crime and the abuse to which she was herself subjected; and the first authoritative account of how the

Bell existed, but was not being enforced. Second, no one made a complaint, preventing the PCC holding an inquiry. "I would have welcomed a complaint about the alleged harassment which took place. It would have given us an opportunity to make clear that the harassment of any child is unacceptable and that we shall always condemn it."

He added that the "furore about the payment to criminals and the alleged harassment that took place would have occurred whether or not there was serialisation of the book in *The Times* or any other newspaper."

Review of law by summer

LORD WILLIAMS of Mostyn, the Home Office Minister, said a review of the law on allegations of media harassment and intrusion would be completed by summer.

But he said the difficulties of changing the law were significant. "If we can encourage the PCC at least to review its present powers, to see whether or not they are working effectively, in the end that may be the best way forward." He suggested that the PCC should be able to investigate on its own volition.

He warned his "shame and horror" at the alleged treatment of Mary Bell's daughter by the media. But he said the history of the press over the past ten to 15 years had been of "responsible improvement". He acknowledged that *The Times* had overcome the "quite high hurdle" when making its public-interest defence.

He said: "We cannot have a democratic, free society without a press which is free. A free press is bound, on occasions, to overstep the limits. The scheme that we need is for the PCC to remedy those wrongs it can and for only the rarest of cases to be the subject of legal proceedings."

Notice to Halifax borrowers.

The variable base rate for Halifax plc mortgage accounts (but not secured personal loan accounts) will be decreased by 0.25% p.a. to 7.45% p.a.

The new interest rate will take effect from 1st February 1999 for existing borrowers. The monthly payment will be amended from April 1999 for mortgage accounts on Budget Plan and from the next review date for mortgage accounts on Annual Review.



Dixons

Sale

LOWEST EVER PRICES ON PERSONAL CD PLAYERS

HITACHI CDP140
10 SECOND ANTI-SHOCK PERSONAL CD PLAYER
• Programmable CD
• Bass boost
• Mains adaptor
Was £89.99

SAVE £40
£49.99

MATSUI CD106
PERSONAL CD PLAYER
• Mains adaptor
• Bass boost
• Repeat function
Was £49.99

SAVE £20
£29.99

SONY D440S
PERSONAL CD PLAYER
• ESP shock protection
• Remote control
• Mains adaptor
• Rechargeable battery
Was £69.99

SAVE £20
£49.99

RECORDABLE MINIDISC FROM UNDER £180

aiwa AMF5
RECORDABLE MINIDISC PLAYER
10 second Anti-Shock
Was £229.99

SAVE £50
£179.99

SONY MZ760
RECORDABLE MINIDISC PLAYER
40 second Anti-Shock
Was £279.99

SAVE £30
£249.99

SONY MZ720
RECORDABLE MINIDISC PLAYER
• Bass boost
Was £259.99

SAVE £30
£169.99

JVC RV890
CD RADIO CASSETTE
• Total 60 watts power
• JUCI
• Philips digital tuner
• With 45 preset
In-store Price £249.99

SAVE £20
£179.99

PERSONAL HI-FI SAVE £10

aiwa EX680
PERSONAL STEREO
• Mains adaptor
• Bass boost
• 12 to 22 hours playback
• Type selector
• Auto-reverse
• 7 days of purchase, we'll refund the difference. The product must be new, complete and available for immediate delivery.

SAVE £10
£39.99

Panasonic RX700
PERSONAL STEREO
• Auto-reverse
• Dolby B noise reduction
• Remote control

SAVE £5
£47.99

SONY EX680
PERSONAL STEREO
• Remote control
• Auto-reverse play/pause
• Dolby B noise reduction

SAVE £5
£49.99

CLEARANCE PORTABLE AUDIO HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

MATSUI CD106
PERSONAL CD PLAYER
• Bass boost
• Repeat function
Was £49.99

FREE SPENDERS
£39.99

HITACHI CDP140
10 SECOND ANTI-SHOCK PERSONAL CD PLAYER
• Programmable CD
• Bass boost
• Mains adaptor
Was £89.99

HALF PRICE
£44.99

aiwa CD RADIO CASSETTE
• Philips digital tuner
• With 45 preset
In-store Price £109.99

SAVE £10
£99.99

JVC CD RADIO CASSETTE
• Total 60 watts power
• JUCI
• Philips digital tuner
• With 45 preset
In-store Price £109.99

SAVE £10
£99.99

MANY MORE CLEARANCE LINES IN-STORE NOW! CHECK YOUR LOCAL STORE FOR AVAILABILITY

Dixons

There's a Great Deal going on

Part of DSG Retail Ltd. ORDER HOTLINE 0800 62 22 22. ONLINE SHOP: www.dixons.co.uk

Look out for our special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this voucher to any Dixons store to claim your discount. One voucher saving per purchase. Some voucher offers are an alternative to existing trade-in offers. Not for use with other offers. Branch use only. Discount using Code 4 (Home Office offer). HURRY! These voucher prices valid only until Friday, 5th February 1999.

Scotland
plans spe
straint

discussed chi
gets new sta

COLOMB
EARTHQUA
APPEAL

British Red C
0171 201 50

to help the people of
the world

هذه من ليل

سكز امان لايمل

No one
t Mary
d help?

Scotland Yard plans specialist restraint teams

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Correspondent

SCOTLAND YARD is planning to set up specialist restraint teams to deal with mentally ill people or violent drug users after a series of deaths in custody.

Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has ordered senior officers to draw up a blueprint for the teams after the death last week of Roger Sylvester. The 30-year-old black man from North London, who suffered from mental illness, died after being held by police during a disturbance.

This week a jury decided that restraint tactics contributed to the death of Nathan Delamain, a businessman from South London who became distressed after taking cocaine. The inquest was told he had 52 injuries.

Sir Paul is also considering issuing video cameras to the teams to deal with disturbed people so that the film can be shown to inquests. Video cameras are already used in stations, on operations and are carried in some police vans.

The emergency teams would operate like armed response vehicles. They would be on 24-hour call around London and could carry paramedics, doctors or officers with special training.

Each would have a qualified high-speed driver. Officers called to a scene could summon their aid or 999 dispatchers would alert them after an emergency call from a member of the public.

The teams would be qualified to assess a patient, and civilian counsellors could mollify a disturbed man or woman. If they could not be calmed the teams would restrain them safely using the techniques deployed by nurses in mental hospitals. They would be able to sedate a patient and arrange for transfer to hospital by ambulance.

The teams would be the first of their kind in the world, but Sir Paul says he feels they would be justified to relieve the pressure on officers and answer public concern.

Sir Paul said yesterday that he had decided there must be new measures following the case of Mr Sylvester, who died in an intensive care unit after being taken by police to a mental health hospital.

Police first-aid training has already been improved and some methods of restraint have been banned.

Sir Paul said police were dealing with hundreds of cases each year of violent situations created by drug abuse or by mental health patients who had been discharged to care in the community programmes. The main problem came from cocaine users because there was always a risk they could suffer a heart attack after a rush of adrenalin.

At present ambulance staff will not deal with violent patients and it is left to police to step in, often with only a pair of handcuffs and restraint techniques.

The commissioner said: "It is becoming harder and harder for officers to know how to deal with these cases. In a civilised society there must be a better way of dealing with these cases. Is it fair to expect police officers to solve these issues?"

Scotland Yard has started talks with ambulance services, coroners and doctors to assess the plan and work out how it could operate. Sir Paul acknowledged that setting up the units would be expensive but drastic action was needed.



Maria Dingwall and actors Christopher Eccleston and Tom Courtney at the service

Cathedral full in memory of Derek Bentley

By Robin Young

SOUTHWARK Cathedral beside London Bridge was full yesterday afternoon for a long-postponed service in memory of a simple-minded young man hanged 46 years ago for murdering a policeman.

Derek Bentley's conviction for the murder of PC Sidney Miles was quashed by the Court of Appeal last July. Yesterday's service was an exercise in penitence and contrition, though government ministers who had promised to attend failed to appear.

Despite their absence the cathedral was full, and many more people who had involved themselves in the case over the years sent messages or cards of support.

The Provost of Southwark, the Very Rev Colin Sice, delivered a scathing sermon against complacency and institutional immorality. "Capital punishment is not only evil because miscarriages of justice cannot be reversed but also because it pollutes and ultimately destroys the very fabric of morality in society," the provost said.

Derek Bentley's death, he said, had altered the lives of many people and transformed Bentley's working-



Bentley: hanged 46 years ago for murder

class family "into doggedly determined campaigners, articulate, informed and politically active". The provost added: "It is a matter of profound regret that there is no senior ministerial representative here."

Derek Bentley's niece, Maria Bentley Dingwall, deputy mayor of the London Borough of Merton, read from St John's Gospel.

Christopher Eccleston, who played Derek Bentley in the film *Let Him Have It*, attended. Derek Bentley's brother Dennis, 56, said: "I can imagine my mother and father and my sister, Iris, being very proud if they could have been here."

ays Time
ress code



Rescued chimp gets new start

By Helen Johnstone

ONE of the most unusual custody battles in Britain began yesterday with a subtle but definite change in a name.

Directors of the monkey sanctuary that rescued Trudy the chimpanzee from the cruelty of circus travel Mary Chipperfield announced that its name would now be spelled with a "y" rather than "t" as the Chipperfields had.

Chipperfield, who was found guilty on Wednesday of cruelty towards a chimpanzee in a case heard by a judge, is assisting in having her back. Andover Magistrates Court was told last because Trudy was owned by Chipperfield. Promotional and not Chipperfield herself, it could not stop the company returning the chimp over Hampshire farm.

The chimp spent much of the first 18 months of its life in a cage less than 4y3 metres, in a freezing barn was isolated from other animals and had only a swing rope and a ball for entertainment. Her sleeping quarters, in which she was locked from 4.30pm until 7.30am, was a darkened box similar to that used to transport cats. Her meals included scraps from supermarket rubbish bins.

Trudy's new world consists of a two-acre run and a large centrally heated house complete with gymnasium. It shares the area with a group of 11 other chimpanzees who have all been rescued from abuse. Meals served at regular intervals include milk, primate pellets in a choice of raspberry and malt flavour, sunflowers, fruit, eggs and vegetables.

Jim Cronin, who took her to Monkey World, Warcham, Dorset, last April after police confiscated her from Chipperfield, said the chimpanzee, which has two finger tips and a toe missing, was traumatised. "We have rescued 44 chimps. She looked very much like them. We immediately showed an interest in her life and she responded."

BRILLIANT VALUE

IN STORE NOW

WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE

Ask in-store for details of our Price Promise

Firelog Slimline Coal Effect Gas Fire

3.1kW inset gas fire with cast brass front and matching non-flammable frame. Variable flame/heat control settings, flame supervision device and oxygen depletion sensor. Fits brick chimney, pre-cast and pre-fabricated flues.

£199

FREE Regent Solid Pine Mantel (NORMAL RRP PRICE £27.99)

When you buy the Firelog Slimline Gas Fire. Unfinished pine ideal for varnishing, staining or painting. 1054mm height x 1207mm width.

B&Q 24 Hour Plug-In Mechanical Quartz Timer

Was £11.99

£5.99

Super Fence Wallcoverings

Available in a choice of 8 colours.

£5.99

TGV Softwood Cladding Pack of 5

6m x 2.1m

£3.49 **£3.99**

Performance Power 12V Cordless Drill

10mm keyless chuck, torque settings. Complete with accessories and carrying case.

UNDER £30

£29.99

Dulux Once One Coat Vinyl-Soft Sheen Emulsion

Pure Brilliant White. 4.5 litres.

SAVE £2.50

Was £15.99

£13.49

Wooden Toilet Seat

Available in pine or mahogany effects.

Was £8.97

£7.99 each

Envirodry Extra Dehumidifier

9.5 litre extraction per day. Adjustable humidistat. 2 fan speeds. Operates down to 2°C. Continuous drainage facility. Black ash effect casing.

Was £199.99

£179

SAVE £1,784

Premier Victorian White PVC-U Conservatory Model VU637

With 10 year guarantee.

Was £5,391

£3,607

Larch-Lap Featheredge Apex Garden Shed

Overlap closeboard cladding. Fully lined. With perspex glazed window, roofing felt and base. 6' x 3' 11" x 6' 8" height.

£99.98

Envirodry Deluxe Dehumidifier

10.5 litre extraction per day. Mahogany effect casing.

Was £249.99

£225

"This dehumidifier will help to reduce condensation and it includes a dust filter."



COLIN PINK Store Manager NEW B&Q TAUNTON

COLOMBIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Monday's earthquake devastated the Colombian city of Armenia and surrounding towns and villages. Over 1,000 are feared dead and many thousands are homeless. No-one knows how many are trapped beneath rubble.

Colombian Red Cross-trained volunteers were the first on the scene, searching for survivors and caring for the injured. But with emergency facilities badly damaged they need your help now to provide food, medical aid, tents and generators.

Please help. Fill in the coupon below or call us with your donation today.

British Red Cross

Registered Charity No. 220048

0171 201 5038

Yes, I want to help the people of Colombia.

I enclose a cheque/postal order (payable to British Red Cross) for

☐ £250 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 Other: £

Or please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Amex/Diners Club/Switch Card

Expiry date: _____ Switch issue no.: _____ Today's date: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

Please send this coupon with your donation to: BRITISH RED CROSS, ROOM 3000, STATIONERS' HALL, 11, ABchurch Lane, LONDON, EC3A 7DF. Add as you can check back the tax worth when filled in each year through C&A. Add as you can check back the tax.

12 Please fill in this box if you do not want to receive further information on the Red Cross.

13 Please fill in this box if you do not want to receive further information on the Red Cross.

notice to
- Halifax
orrowers

You can do it when you B&Q it!

OPENING HOURS

Monday-Saturday: Most stores 9am-6pm, Sunday: Most stores 10am-6pm (where permitted). Scotland 9am-6pm & Northern Ireland 1pm-6pm. Certain store hours may vary, please phone your nearest store to confirm.

THE UK'S BIGGEST DIY CHAIN - FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0181 466 4166

Internet: <http://www.bq.co.uk>

EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q

Ask in store for details. Does not apply to B&Q Warehouse or B&Q Depot.

Other major DIY and B&Q Warehouse stores

Please refer to our Price Promise statement in store. Ask in store for details of all offers. All offers are subject to availability and while stocks last and some products may only be available in certain stores or may have to be ordered, please phone to check before visiting. Some offers are subject to terms and conditions. B&Q's FSC logo. Code 094602. FSC logo means 100% Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) approved. The best product shows in the picture with the gas fire and is not included in the offer, but is available at extra cost. Gas fire and things must be installed by a competent person in accordance with current Gas Safety Regulations. It is strongly recommended that a C2000 registered installer be used for this purpose. Decorative gas fires do not have a connector box. A standard fire back will be required. Conservatories include base and cupboards. Please check with your local authority about planning permission. Conservatory prices stated are for model featured and exclude components, talk to store for details and costs.

Flous Benjaminia Exotica Braided Weeping Fig in 21cm Pot

£10

B&Q

Murder riddle darkens Yale's hallowed halls

THE brutality of the murder alone might have made a few headlines. The young woman was found face down with 17 stab wounds in her back and neck. But there had been 11 other murders in New Haven, Connecticut over the previous year so it was hardly likely to register on the national radar. The disclosure that she was a Yale University student made it more interesting, of course.

No student at the prestigious university had been killed for eight years. Then police said that this time they were not looking for a low-life robber or local drifter. They suspected that the killer was somebody from the tight-knit Ivy League academic community itself.

Almost two months after Suzanne Jovin, a bright and popular 21-year-old politics major, was found dead, nobody has been arrested or charged. That does not mean, however, that accusatory fingers are not being pointed. One of the world's most famous universities is consumed by the mystery, the gothic halls sullied by an atmosphere of suspicion.

Jovin spent much of December 4, the day she died, throwing a party for mentally ill people in the town. After the party, at about 9pm, she returned a borrowed van to the university and was last seen by college porters on campus.

Three quarters of an hour

Mystery deepens over student's brutal death, writes Damian Whitworth

later she was killed, on a patch of moonlit grass in an up-market residential area that immediately struck investigators as strangely out of the way.

James Van de Velde, 38, who was supervising Jovin's thesis on international terrorism, entered the picture when police began talking to people who had seen her on the day she died. He said that he had seen



Professor Van de Velde named as a suspect

her before the party, but it was for less than a minute, when she dropped off a draft for his perusal.

Professor Van de Velde's students reported that he was visibly upset in the days after Jovin's death. With tears in his eyes he had placed a bouquet on her chair in class and asked for a moment's silence. "The professor seemed as shaken as everyone else," said one. He also wrote a tribute to Jovin in the Yale Daily News. Then rumours about the popular professor, who lived half a mile from where Jovin died, began to circulate.

Police confirmed that he was a suspect and began interviewing students, former students and other acquaintances. Professor Van de Velde responded by saying that the situation was a "nightmare", that he was innocent and the way the investigation was being conducted was unfair.

The public announcement that I am in a pool of suspects is immensely upsetting. Any suggestion that I had anything to do with the death of my former student is deeply, deeply painful and outrageous," the professor said.

His offers to supply a blood sample and take a lie-detector test were turned down. Nevertheless, the university cancelled his classes, insisting that it presumed he was innocent but that his presence in the classroom would be "a



Suzanne Jovin, the 21-year-old student at Yale who was killed in a knife attack

major distraction for students and impair their educational experience".

A Yale graduate himself, Professor Van de Velde had worked as a diplomat in the State Department under the Bush Administration before returning to his alma mater to teach. He was renowned for his unusual methods, such as pulling a gun out of his briefcase in class to demonstrate to

his diplomacy students how to deal with an extortion attempt. He would later say that the gun was not real.

His apartment contained books marked "CIA" and there was speculation as to whether he had worked for the agency, or wanted to create that impression. Professor Van de Velde was studying for a journalism degree and had been gaining work experience

at a local television station. While there two female television reporters filed complaints about his behaviour. One accused him of peering through her windows and constantly phoning her after she broke off a fledgling relationship.

The university authorities have decided that Professor Van de Velde will continue to be paid as police struggle to find the killer in their midst.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Nigeria threatens to quit Freetown

Freetown: Sierra Leone's embattled democratic Government may soon be forced to negotiate with the leaders of a bloody rebellion after Nigeria's leader said this week that he wanted to pull his troops out of the country to ensure a smooth transition to a civilian government due to be elected in May (Sam Kiley writes). General Abdulsalam Abubakar said in Abuja that he wanted to withdraw his troops before May 9.

A sudden pullout by the Nigerians, who dominate the Ecomog forces backing the elected Government, would be disastrous for its leader Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. He has only a handful of loyal soldiers, the rest having repeatedly changed sides.

Harare torture proven

Harare: According to a report issued here there is undeniable medical evidence that the two Zimbabwean journalists detained illegally last week by military authorities were tortured (Van Raath writes). Phillimon Chigwanda, an orthopaedic surgeon and trauma specialist, said: "There is no doubt in my mind" that Mark Chavunduka, 34, editor of the independent Standard newspaper, and Ray Choto, 36, a reporter, were "subjected to severe interrogation and torture".

Call for Rock detente

Spain's main opposition party has called on Madrid to set aside the issue of sovereignty in the search for an accommodation with Gibraltar (Michael Binyon writes). The Spanish Socialist Party has called for talks to boost co-operation and mutual understanding, and suggested a given period when there should be no change in the status quo — a break with tradition sure to receive warm encouragement in Britain.

11 hurt in Cape blast

Cape Town: Eleven people were injured, three seriously, when a bomb exploded outside a police station in the heart of the city. Leonard Knipe, of the serious violent crimes unit, said two suspects were being interrogated. Michael Joward, the visiting Shadow Foreign Secretary, went to the site and said: "These offences need to be tackled with determination and I hope the perpetrators will be brought to justice." (AFP)

Daredevil transplant

Tampa, Florida: The motorcycle daredevil Evel Knievel, right, was in a stable condition after undergoing a liver transplant. Knievel, 60, has hepatitis C, which he believes he contracted from one of the many blood transfusions he needed after spectacular crashes in the 1960s and 1970s. The disease destroyed his liver. Knievel broke at least 35 bones and underwent surgery 14 times during his stunt career. (AP)



Chips down for lovers

Kuala Lumpur: Muslim couples married in the Malaysian capital will be issued with cards with coming chips so Islamic police can instantly verify their "purity", news reports said. Islamic police often raid rooms suspect of sheltering an unwed pair. Islamic law prohibits sex outside marriage and offenders face up to two months in jail and a fine. The Government hopes to give police portable card-readers. (AP)

Teachers lose their grip in Japan's blackboard jungle

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

UNRULY pupils are driving Japan's teachers to seek psychiatric help after a collapse of discipline has left them unable to conduct classes in many schools. Clinics are having to treat increasing numbers suffering mental breakdowns and stress-related illnesses brought on by the phenomenon stoking a national debate *gakkyu hokai*, or disintegrating classrooms.

Forty-four per cent of junior and secondary teachers say that they

have witnessed the breakdown of discipline in classes, either their own or those of colleagues, according to a survey this month by Kyodo news agency. This time last year the Japanese media were awash with reports of classroom violence, which culminated in the fatal stabbing of a woman teacher by a 13-year-old.

In recent weeks, a country that once prided itself on rigorous classroom obedience has been shocked to discover that anarchy is spreading. Even junior schools, where children are traditionally most docile, are hotbeds of rebellion. Teachers testify

that it is common for lessons to be disrupted by pupils walking around, chatting and sharing snacks. Staff also tell of boys relieving themselves in corridors, spitting on classroom floors and smashing windows. Earlier this month two 15-year-old boys, screaming obscenities, lashed out at a group of male and female teachers, inflicting injuries that sent five staff to hospital, two with broken cheekbones.

The mayhem is taking its toll on a profession that long enjoyed respect in a country obsessed by education. At a national teachers' conference

last weekend participants described a sense of powerlessness. "The crisis in our schools and educational system is escalating at a rapid pace," Yuji Kawakami, head of the Japan Teachers' Union, said.

The Ministry of Education says teachers are increasingly affected by mental disorders: those whose absence stemmed from stress or nervous breakdowns account for a record 39 per cent of sick leave. The ministry blames pupils' disobedience. The toll on mental health is confirmed by doctors. Dr Ken Okada, head of psychiatry at Kanto Chuo Hospital in

Tokyo, has seen a sharp rise in teachers seeking treatment. "Many are males in their mid-thirties and females in their forties. Younger ones quit before they go mad."

This month a teacher, 34, committed suicide in the chemistry laboratory of a high school in Hokkaido, northern Japan. The man was said to be in despair over the collapse of discipline among his pupils.

Teaching experts, media pundits and parents groping for explanations are blaming a breakdown of family values, too much television and junk food.

FOR A FREE DIY HOME ENERGY CHECK, CALL 0345 277 200



This is the simplest bit of DIY ever. You just fill in our free questionnaire and send it to us. In return, we'll send you a list of ways to make your home more energy efficient. And what does the great Albert think of this? He gives us a big tick and a pat on the back. Stop it, Alb, you're making us blush.

For your questionnaire, call now.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SOLE SISTERS

"I love sisters because they're the only women who tell you the truth." Dr Valerie Stone. Messages of shoes. Style, this.

UP TO 60% OFF HOLIDAYS

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPER

سنة ١٤٢٠ من الهجرة

Israelis accused of hiding smallpox virus

**FROM ROSS DUINN
IN JERUSALEM**

A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing a dense, textured surface, possibly a pile of rubble or debris. The image is characterized by deep shadows and bright highlights, creating a complex, almost abstract pattern of light and dark areas. A large, dark, irregular shape dominates the center, surrounded by smaller, more defined objects that appear to be fragments or pieces of material. The overall effect is one of intense texture and dramatic lighting.

Beduin troops gather to salute Jordan's Crown Prince Abdullah, the heir apparent to the Hashemite kingdom, on his arrival at the royal palace in Amman yesterday

"Despite the clear danger to public health, the virus is kept in defective security conditions, and close to densely populated areas," the expert alleges.

By mid-1982, 15 months ago the virus was being kept in a laboratory on Jaffa Road, the main thoroughfare in Jerusalem, according to the article.

Dr. Lindsay Martinez, an expert on smallpox for the WHO, said "The decision to destroy the virus applies to all member countries in the organization. If there are laboratories which hold samples of any of the virus material, that is a dangerous and serious act."

EVERY KITCHEN HALF PRICE
EXTRA 10% OFF MANY RANGES UNTIL SUNDAY

NEFF T1113
GAS / ELECTRIC
HOB
RRP £180
SALE £89

X PRICE £79

NEFF OR TEKNIK

BLUE CROSS

APPLIANCE WEEKEND

TEKNIK TKC201
INTERATED
OVEN & GRILL
RRP £369
SALE £159

X PRICE £129

TEKNIK TKR201
INTERATED
FREEZER
WAS £289
SALE £189

X PRICE £169

NEFF D0602
STAINLESS STEEL
CHIMNEY HOOD
RRP £325
SALE £139

X PRICE £119

FREE
WITH EVERY KITCHEN
**Integrated
Dishwasher**
WAS £559

BUY ALL THESE APPLIANCES FOR
£695 / SAVE £146

TEKNIK TKR01
INTERATED
FRIDGE
WAS £459
SALE £279

X PRICE £259

ALL Teknik appliances include **FREE 2 year parts and labour guarantee**. Full installation service available.



OVER 200 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE - OPEN 7 DAYS
TALK TO YOUR LOCAL SHOWROOM DIRECT

0345 00 11 22

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK: MON - FRI: 10.00 - 5.30 SAT: 9.00 - 5.30 SUN: 11.00 - 5.00

MOBEN
KITCHENS

MOBEN
KITCHENS

Kitchens and appliance offers only apply to UK mainland kitchen purchases over £2500 delivered within 14 days. High price refers to price list dated 26.11.98. Only one of each type of appliance per order. Advertised appliances may be fitted as an extra. Fitting excludes customers' own appliances and is to be available on site supplies. Integrated doors available at extra cost. No other offers apply.

Northern Iraq air defences come under renewed attack

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

vilified' by Baghdad for supporting last month's Operation Desert Fox. Mrs Allright later told American troops at an airbase outside Riyadh that provides support for aircraft patrolling the southern no-fly zone: "You are the delivery system for a simple message to Saddam Hussein — quit bullying your neighbours." But senior Saudi officials announced

□ Baghdad: Iraq has started to reconstruct Baghdad buildings which were damaged in the US-led air and missile strikes last month, including two buildings of the ruling Baath party, the Al-Zawra weekly newspaper reported yesterday. I was the first time that the damage to the Baath party buildings has been reported in Iraq. (Reuters)

Saudis give US troops luxury base

Madeline Albright, US Secretary of State, told troops there yesterday: "With your help we will continue to enforce the no-fly zones and leave no doubt that we will respond to provocation." (AP)

NOW FROM 9.9% A R

**You've found a bargain
in the sales.**

**Now you've found
a great way to pay for it.**

- You'll have fixed, low monthly payments.
- No compulsory insurance, arrangement fee or complicated paper work.
- No security or deposit required.
- Call now for an instant decision on loans from £1,000 to £25,000.

0181 680 9966 **0161 831 9966** **014 248 9966**
GLASGOW **MANCHESTER** **GLASGOW**

**CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and
9am to 5pm Saturday**

www.directline.com/loans **Please quote ref. NTT57**

Direct Line Personal Services Limited, 250 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HT. You must be aged 22 or over and have a regular home address in England, Scotland or Wales. Rate correct at 24 January 1999. Available in England, Scotland and Wales. Written enquiries on request. Call recorded and monitored. Direct Line Ltd the red phone at Vandy is the trademark of Direct Line Insurance plc and its subsidiaries.

Olympic lobbyist denies role in scandal

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AN EGYPTIAN-BORN middleman at the centre of the Salt Lake City scandal yesterday denied any involvement in bribing Olympic delegates and called for open voting on future venues to prevent further corruption.

Mahmoud El-Farnawani, 66, a former Libyan national volleyball coach who now runs a sporting souvenirs company in Canada, worked as a paid consultant for both Salt Lake City's and Sydney's winning Olympic bids.

After the Salt Lake City scandal broke, a Libyan and a Sudanese delegate he had lobbied on the cities' behalf were forced off the International Olympic Committee amid allegations that they had taken favours from the bid committee.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr El-Farnawani said: "If there is no open vote you can expect the same thing to happen again." Mr El-Farnawani is a member of a new profession of global lobbyists, known as "Olympic agents", who use their personal friendships with Olympic delegates for lucrative consulting contracts with cities eager to host the Games.

An accomplished volleyball player from a prominent Egyptian family, he moved to Libya after the 1967 Middle East war and emigrated to Canada in 1969 when Muammar Gaddafi came to power. He first became involved in Olympic bidding when he volunteered to

help his new home city of Toronto to seek the 1996 Games. Even though Toronto lost to Atlanta, Sydney and Salt Lake City sought his help in securing support for their bids for the summer and winter Olympics of 2000 and 2002.

"They call me an agent," Mr El-Farnawani said. "I do not like the term. I am a consultant because I make strategy, watching the other cities, capitalising on their mistakes." Employed by Sydney on a retainer of \$3,500-\$4,000 (£2,120-£2,420) a month, Mr El-Farnawani was present at a Monte Carlo hotel in September 1993 when the Olympic committee voted 45-43 to award the Games to Sydney.

The night before the vote, according to documents, Australian officials met two African delegates to promise \$70,000 to their national Olympic committees.

Salt Lake City paid him \$161,000 to lobby for the votes of Arab-African delegates from Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia. He provided personal details about the delegates to improve the bid city's chance of influencing them. Information ranged from the delegate's family problems to such trivia as whether to stock his hotel mini-bar with alcohol.

Although he cannot promise to deliver votes because of the current system of secret balloting, he does concede: "I can say I have a good chance to convince my very good friends." Mr El-Farnawani describes himself as a good friend of both the Libyan delegate and the Sudanese member forced off the IOC by the scandal.

He says he briefed Salt Lake City officials about the Libyan's devotion to his family of three sons and three daughters, but only learnt of the scholarship deal for his son about a year later. He says he had no knowledge of payments to the Sudanese.

"To kill the core of the corruption is to have an open vote," he says. "I owe you nothing. You owe me nothing."

Ganga hits back, page 53



A woman shields herself against the wind as temperatures in the Finnish village of Pokka fell to minus 51C

Scandinavians in grip of coldest snap for a century

FROM BIRGITTE HYGEN IN OSLO

A SEVERE cold snap has hit much of Scandinavia, gripping Norway, Sweden and Finland in some of the lowest temperatures recorded here this century. Schools were closed, shops and post offices abandoned, streets deserted and electricity frequently cut off as people struggled to keep warm.

In northern Norway near the Russian border the temperature fell to minus 56C (minus 69F) in one village — the lowest for 100 years.

In the Finnish town of Pokka, where the temperature was minus 51C, even hardy sled dogs were allowed to sleep inside. Power cuts left many homes without heat for up to five hours. "We wondered how to spend the night, but then we remembered the sauna in the basement is wood heated," said one resident.

In Karasjok, high in the Arctic Circle, temperatures fell to minus 51.2C — just fractionally short of the all-time

record of minus 51.4C endured in 1886.

Television reporters demonstrated how cold it was by throwing cups of warm water into the air where it became a cloud of ice crystals before reaching the ground.

A plane bound for Oslo from Alta in the North was left frozen to the runway. Mobile telephone networks collapsed. Most people stayed in good spirits and marvelled at each record. The severe cold weather has been blamed on winds blowing in from Siberia. Forecasters say the cold will persist over the next few days.

□ Moscow: Parts of Russia have experienced their coldest weather this century, the Russian Weather Service said. Temperatures below minus 40C in Archangel paralysed drawbridges over the North Dvina River, keeping some ships out of harbour. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 25

SALE

Enjoy the magic of digital photography.

Use the superb Olympus digital camera (worth £399.99 inc VAT), manipulate your photos on the imaging editing software (included) and print them out. You'll never have to buy film again!



Home Studio™ Plus System 400

NOTHING TO PAY, NOT EVEN A DEPOSIT, UNTIL THE YEAR 2000

Intel® Pentium® II Processor 400MHz	Epson Stylus 840 Colour Printer
128MB Fast SD RAM 100MHz	Flatbed Colour Scanner
8.4GB Hard Disk Drive	Over £430 of Microsoft and Other Software, Plus 4 DVD Titles
15" SVGA 28 Colour Monitor	
8MB Graphics Card	
5 Speed DVD ROM Drive compatible with CD	
Voice Fax/Modem	
FREE Trial Internet Access	
Windows 98	
Olympus 1000L Digital Camera & Image Editing Software	

WAS £1299.99 inc VAT
NOW £1299



Pay less for brilliant DVD graphics.

Now save even more on the latest DVD technology from Tiny. This system includes Printer, Scanner and over £770 of software. What brilliant value!

Intel® Pentium® II Processor 330MHz	Free Microsoft Windows® 98 Interactive Tutorial Software
64MB Fast SD RAM 100MHz	
6.4GB Hard Disk Drive	
15" SVGA 28 Colour Monitor	
8MB Graphics Card	
5 Speed DVD ROM Drive compatible with CD	
Voice Fax/Modem	
FREE Trial Internet Access	
Windows 98	
Hewlett Packard 420 Colour Printer	
Flatbed Colour Scanner	
Over £770 of Microsoft and Other Software	
Plus DVD Comptons Encyclopedia	

WAS £999.99 inc VAT
NOW £949

REVEALED!

Every new gadget for 1999



Exclusively inside the new issue of T3

ON SALE NOW!

- The incredible ReplayTV that enables you to pause live television broadcasts
- A handheld voicemail sender and receiver
- The tiny PC that is laptop, PDA and presentation device all in one!

PLUS: WIN A Sega Dreamcast ■ What millionaires REALLY spend their money on... ■ Which home cinema speaker system is right for you? ■ More than 40 pages of gear on test!

SPECIAL OFFER: 3 trial issues £6.00

ORDER HOTLINE: 01458 271121

Save 50p when you order 3 issues by 1st Feb 1999, or 60p for 6 issues by 1st Mar 1999.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Daytime telephone: _____

I would like to pay by ☐ Cheque (subject to credit checks) ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Debit

Send me more issues to keep me up to date _____

Signature: _____

Offer ends 28 February 1999. Valid in the UK only.

87 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - MOST OPEN 9AM TO 6PM MON-SAT

ASHEHAM	EAST LONDON	LONDON EC2	SOUTHAMPTON
BIRMINGHAM	GLASGOW	LONDON E1	STOKES-ON-TRENT
BRIGHTON	GLoucester	MANCHESTER	SUNDERLAND
BURTON	HAMPSHIRE	MILWAUKEE	SUTTON
CHICHESTER	HARROGATE	MILWAUKEE	SWANSEA
CHICHESTER	HARROGATE	MILWAUKEE	SWANSEA
CHICHESTER	HARROGATE	MILWAUKEE	SWANSEA
CHICHESTER	HARROGATE	MILWAUKEE	SWANSEA
CHICHESTER	HARROGATE	MILWAUKEE	SWANSEA
CHICHESTER	HARROGATE	MILWAUKEE	SWANSEA

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR A FREE SALE CATALOGUE, FREEPHONE

0800 731 9372



TINY COMPUTERS LIMITED, REDHILL BUSINESS PARK, BONEHURST ROAD, SALFORDS, REDHILL, SURREY RH1 5TB. FAX 01293 822 514. WWW.TINY.COM

THINK BIG ABOUT YOUR PC. THINK tiny

0% NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL THE YEAR 2000 - NOT EVEN A DEPOSIT
HOME STUDIO™ PLUS SYSTEM 400 - PC cash price £1566.28 inc. Delivery £34.00 + VAT @ 17.5% England & Wales mainland only.
Pay whole balance on or before due payment date interest free. Alternatively pay 36 monthly payments of £76.50, total amount payable £2754.00.
APR 26.9% Interest calculated from day one of the agreement. Written quotations upon request. Finance subject to status.

26.9% APR

Why it pays to buy

At Tiny, the computers we sell in our showrooms we make in our own factories, so we can offer the latest technology and expert advice at the lowest prices.

NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL THE YEAR 2000 ON ALL SYSTEMS

All Tiny computers come with genuine Intel® processors for the very best performance. All Tiny computers come with top quality components and peripherals rather than low-grade alternatives.

Complete systems including printer start from

£599 ex VAT
£703 inc VAT

All our PCs come with an amazing collection of top quality software, worth up to £1010 on some systems.

PC '98 Certified. All Tiny PCs are compatible with present and future software and hardware.

Not all PCs are, be sure to check.

All our PCs are Year 2000 compliant, guaranteed millennium bug-free.

We pre-load all your software for you. And we always include back-up disks completely FREE.

You can pay up to £175 extra elsewhere.

"Give us a break Mum"

Treat the family with 3 nights for the price of 2 and the kids go free

BOOK NOW FOR HALF TERM



London	3 nights	North of England	3 nights
London - Bloomsbury	£130	Bolton* (The Beaumont)	£84
London - Gatwick	£110	Brighouse*	£100
London - Hampstead	£124	Carlisle*	£88
London - Heathrow	£100	Chester	£96
London - Kensington	£138	Grimsby	£84
London - Regent's Park	£138	Haydock	£90
		Hull	£84
		Hull Marina	£104
		Lancaster	£88
		Leeds/Bradford	£104
		Leeds/Selly	£82
		Leeds* (The Queen's)	£120
		Liverpool* (The Gladstone)	£82
		Manchester	£82
		Manchester Airport	£100
		Newcastle-upon-Tyne	£84
		Preston	£84
		Sheffield	£90
		Teesdale	£82
		Wakefield	£82
		Warrington/Runcom	£88
		Washington*	£80
		York	£90
		East of England*	3 nights
		Basildon	£78
		Brentwood	£108
		Cambridge	£96
		Colchester	£92
		Epping	£90
		Ipwich	£88
		Norwich	£88
		Peterborough	£78
		Stevenage	£84
		Central England*	3 nights
		Aylesbury	£88
		Birmingham	£78
		Birmingham Airport	£114
		Birmingham City*	£96
		Coventry	£90
		Derby/Burton*	£88
		Gloucester	£92
		High Wycombe	£90
		Leicester	£78
		Lincoln	£82
		Milton Keynes	£94
		Nottingham City	£98
		Nottingham/Derby	£88
		Walsall* (The Boundary)	£82
		Scotland, Ireland and Wales*	3 nights
		Aberdeen*	£80
		Belfast	£74
		Cardiff*	£88
		Cardiff City*	£96
		Dublin Airport* (IRE)	£114
		Edinburgh*	£110
		Glasgow (Erskine Bridge)	£82
		Glasgow Airport*	£76
		Glasgow City	£78
		Swansea*	£90

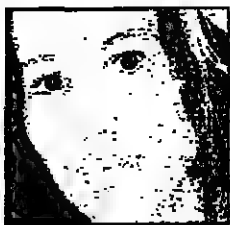
Posthouse

Offer available for breaks taken up to and including 28 Feb 1999. See your travel agent or call.

0345 40 40 40

Quoting reference NEW YEAR 1

Hungry and homeless go on looting rampage



Survivors of quake are left without aid, writes Gabriella Gamini in Armenia

CHAOS and violence reigned in Armenia's stricken earthquake zone as thousands of homeless and hungry survivors went on a looting rampage. They claimed that no emergency relief had arrived since 20 cities and villages were hit by the quake on Monday.

In Armenia, the shattered capital of Yerevan province, looting began on Wednesday morning after desperate survivors awoke to a third day without food or water, huddled in makeshift shelters. The frenzy soon spread across the city. Yesterday desperation led hundreds to fight their way into supermarkets and grocery shops in neighbouring Calaca and La Tebaida.

Meanwhile Colombian Red Cross officials confirmed that 880 bodies had been recovered from debris across Quindio, and said that attempts to find more survivors had been hampered by heavy rain. The death toll is expected to rise — Armenia officials believe it will exceed 2,000 — since only 30 per cent of the disaster area has been searched so far. Rescue teams and government officials still hope to find people alive under rubble, but as the search continued, Armenia's centre became a battle ground for looters and police, with local officials trying to co-ordinate aid workers.

Hundreds of dishevelled survivors clubbed and tore their way into one major supermarket branch in the heart of the city. Dozens ran out with a few goods while others had trolleys loaded with food, laundry paper and bottles of mineral water.

"This is not stealing," said Jaime Ramirez, who clutched bags of flour, beans and sugar. "My children have eaten nothing but bananas and have drunk only a few sips of water in the past 48 hours."

"We have not received as much as a glass of water from the Government," said one woman who stuffed potatoes and onions into a sack. "We are desperate."

Police and troops, deployed on Wednesday to prevent other supermarkets being invaded, were reported to have fired shots in the air and engaged in hand-to-hand scuffles.

But the officers I saw allowed looters through, saying: "These are people who have lost everything and are scrambling for food because they are starving." By yesterday afternoon, Armenia had been scoured for every morsel in the shops.

Colonel Dagoberto Garcia,



A looter is arrested in Armenia where Colombian earthquake survivors clashed with police and troops yesterday

Armenia's police chief, said the spree had not been spurred by hunger alone. "I saw TV images of people running out of supermarkets with bicycles and jewellery. That would not be the case if they were just hungry," he said.

The Government admits, however, that its relief operation has been inefficient and slow. On hearing of the looting, President Pastrana yesterday flew to Armenia to take charge. "We have to show the people that we have not abandoned them and that relief is on its way," he said.

Cecilia Ramirez, head of development for Quindio's provincial government, said: "The situation is critical. Only 5 per cent of the aid to survivors has been sent and handed out." Another state official said: "There is too much bureaucracy. As we sit around discussing what to send where, people are going hungry and thousands are dying under rubble." He called Red Cross, firefighting and civil defence teams "chaotic".

Government officials in Bogotá said more than 94 tonnes of food, water, tents and medical supplies had been gathered at Catana Air Force base outside the capital. Journalists have seen supplies being sent, but when goods reach Armenia, according to one city airport official, most have been delivered to corrupt local leaders who are selling them at high prices.

At the Bogotá headquarters of Solidarity Centre, an aid organisation to which Colombians have sent donations for victims,

boxes of food and medicine stood in the rain. "No one has come to collect them and we don't know when they will be sent," said a worker. Bad administration of foreign aid is not new. When funds poured in after the 1985 mud and rock avalanche that killed 25,000, swallowing the Andean town of Toluca, millions vanished, allegedly pocketed by corrupt local officials.

Nahora Pastrana, the President's wife, made a television appeal saying: "Be patient, we

are sending tents, food and help for the children." International aid of \$20 million (£12 million) has been pledged to help to restore the once prosperous coffee growing region. Britain has bought \$50,000 of medical equipment and lavatories and donated another \$100,000 to a medical charity.

Nineteen British firefighters and rescue workers were flown into Armenia on Wednesday night and teams of Russians, Mexican and Japanese experts have arrived

with modern searching equipment.

One boy, 16, has been saved after three days under a collapsed five-storey building in Armenia. Three corpses had been recovered on Wednesday before rescuers heard the muffled calls of Daniel Andres.

"Here I am, Mummy. Don't worry, I am OK," Daniel, who suffered back injuries, said. Later, he said he drank his urine to stay alive. "But I never gave up because I could hear people's voices."

Jakarta opens way to political freedom

FROM PATRICIA NUNAN IN JAKARTA

INDONESIA paved the way for a new era of political freedom yesterday as the country's Parliament unanimously approved sweeping reforms that promise democracy for the first time in four decades, and the military announced that it would comply with the will of the people on independence for East Timor.

The 500-member House of Representatives (DPR), once a rubber stamp for the ousted President Suharto, passed the laws after a special three-hour sitting and cleared the way for elections on June 7.

"What has been achieved today will be recorded in our nation as a new chapter heading towards the birth of a government which stands on the basis of the sovereignty of the people," Syarwan Hamid, the Home Affairs Minister said.

The reforms include a reduction in the DPR seats reserved for the military to 28 from 75, an end to restrictions allowing only three political parties and a proportional representation system for voting.

News of the reforms came as General Wiranto, head of the Armed Forces, announced that the military would accept the people's wishes for East Timor despite the great sacrifices and loss of life made by the Indonesian army.

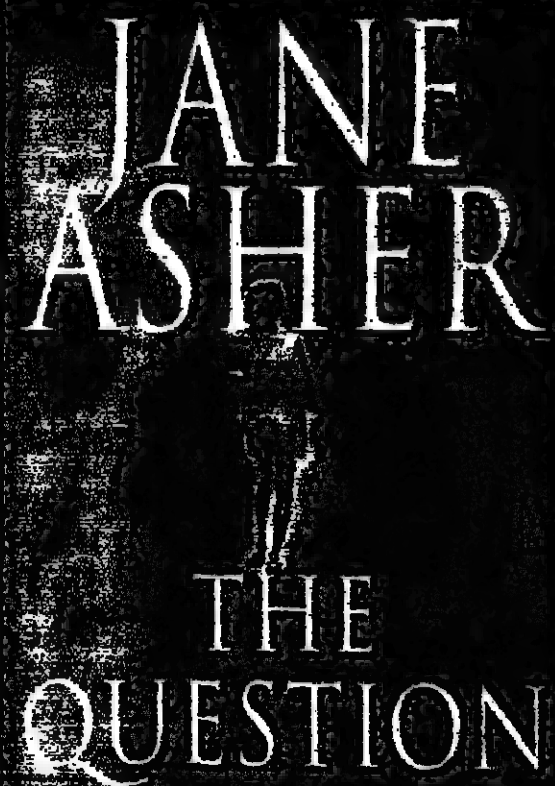
"We have always pulled together to do the best for East Timor... If it is decided that East Timor is no longer part of Indonesia, of course... we will comply with it," he said.

The announcement fuelled speculation of an early release for Xanana Gusman, the East Timorese political prisoner who led the separatist movement pitted against an occupation force that has numbered 20,000 Indonesian troops.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and declared it its 27th province a year later in a move that is still not recognised by the United Nations.

Yesterday's dramatic developments came a day after Ali Alatas, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, announced that the Government would propose opening the issue of granting East Timor full independence to legislative debate for the first time.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO
IF THE LIFE YOU LOVED WAS
TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU?



The white-hot fury of a woman scorned
ignites the pages of Jane Asher's
clever and disturbing novel

DAILY MAIL

The Top 10 Bestseller
Out Now in Paperback

water.com HarperCollins Paperbacks

Out now at Tesco
and all good
bookshops

LOOKING FOR A SCHOOL ON THE INTERNET?

with **School Search**

Up-to-date details of independent schools in the UK and overseas.

Preparatory, Senior, VHS, Poma, Professional Schools and Colleges, Boarding, co-educational and single-sex. Search by subject, location, type of school, etc.

<http://www.schoolsearch.co.uk>

School Search is a new service from the independent schools sector. It is a free service for parents and teachers. It is a service that is designed to help parents and teachers find the right school for their children. It is a service that is designed to help parents and teachers find the right school for their children.

Official lo...

Questions
Senators
want to
ask key
witnesses

DISCOVER

Stock up
BOOK

The mysterious power of hats



"My own sense of the mysterious power of hats came early. At five I declined to be parted from a woollen bonnet shaped like an old-fashioned pram hood, with a whalebone horseshoe to hold it around the face."

Every garment tells a story, but of all the clothes in the wardrobe, the most loquacious is the hat. Hats are aphoristic. Like it or not, by wearing one, you are allowing the essence of your personality to be revealed by an indirect hemisphere of stiffened fabric.

It is not just monarchs, guardsmen and cardinals who find themselves reduced to a symbol by their headgear. Think of all the other hats that have become a kind of shorthand for the person underneath them — Dot Cotton's shrewish turban; Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's sweet-pea Dolly Vardens; Benny from *Crossroads*' pathetic woolly tea cosy and its tough-guy antonym, the black knitted skull-cap fancied by burglars, terrorists, members of the special forces and anyone else up to macho no good in the shrubbery.

Then there are mouldy green

cowpats favoured as leisurewear by denizens of the House of Lords and working men's clubs, and the remarkable head sculpture modelled by Isabella Blow — the Peggy Guggenheim of modern millinery.

My own sense of the mysterious power of hats came early. At five I declined to be parted from a blue and white woollen bonnet.

A good hat can have the same result as a facelift

It was shaped like an old-fashioned pram hood, with a springy whalebone horseshoe to hold it firm around the face and a white pom-pom on the back. I wore it continually, indoors and out, for some weeks. Looking at the photographs, I suspect I had decided that it was better than the ruthlessly ugly pudding-bowl haircut underneath it.

There followed a battle — or rather a seven-year war of attrition — against the loathsome school hats (grey felt in winter, rigid straw in summer) to be worn at all times outside the school gates. Unable to

defend them on aesthetic grounds, our headmistress fell back on science, arguing that a column of heat rose straight out of the top of our heads, to be wasted in the surrounding atmosphere, unless we trapped it under our hats.

It didn't work. We ran about bare-headed, doing our bit for global warming, until the day we left school, when our interest in millinery unaccountably revived. I had, in quick succession, a little black beret like a French Resistance heroine, a large felt halo, as worn by Colette's Gigi, a hunting bowler with a veil like the one belonging to Trollope's dashing Vi Effingham, and a Persian lamb toque, for looking gloomy on stations in the manner of Anna Karenina.

These days, if I had a literary fashion icon, I suppose it would be Tabitha Twitcheit, who is so ground down by domesticity that she goes about hatless. This does not mean, however, that I have lost

interest in hats. On the contrary, a good hat can have, at a fraction of the cost, the same result as a facelift, offering a dramatically flattering background for a pretty profile, or making eyes seem huge and jewel-like. It is an effect not lost on Lady Weinberg, who is often photographed peering out from under a cartwheel brim with eyes like sapphire headlamps.

If you feel the need for this kind of lift, now is a good time for hat-hunting. A hat is, as scientifically demonstrated by my headmistress, an essential shield against the weather. And if your shield should happen to come from Philip Treacy or Stephen Jones — well, whose business is that but your own?

Since it is midwinter the shops are filling up nicely with pastel cruise wear. But pockets persist, in the bigger stores, of winter hats, satisfactorily reduced. One of the best sales is at Liberty, where a glossy faux beaver flowerpot by

Stephen Jones is £84 (£169); he also does an amazing, furry, broad-brimmed curate's hat, £16 (£22), and if you had a winter wedding to go to, you could divert all eyes from the bride in his black velvet cartwheel trimmed with white marabou and black cocks' feathers, £297 (£595). Less flash, but just as chic, are Philip Treacy's black felt fez trimmed with curled cocks' feathers, £77 (£125), his felt leopard-print poodle hat, £12.50 (£225), and his giraffe-print bowler with curled feathers, £87.50 (£175). If you insist on a sensible hat, Liberty's own-label faux beaver flowerpot with a large furry bow is £20 (£39). Heather Allan's brown and silver Davy Crockett hat with two dangling tails is £130, and Fred Bare's lilac quilted-satin trapper's hat, lined in fake fur, is £42 (£85).

At Harvey Nichols, Gilly Forge's black "mink" with a turn-up brim is £49.95 (£100); her "snow leopard"

toque is £55 (£110) and a super-plain white "mink" pillbox, by Philip Somerville is £31.95 (£65). Accessorize has jolly striped ski hats for £9.99 (£12.99), a gypsyish black velvet hat with crimson embroidered roses, £12.49 (£24.99), a pale blue angora bunchers-boy cap for £7.49 (£14.99) and a rubbery black bouclé hat with a lace-trimmed brim for £12.49 (£24.99).

So far, I have bought nothing, I think I am trying to decide between Broca's cashmere pull-on, £19, Agnès's small, black cloud of an alpaca beret, £40, and a 1.5 Malson de la Pausse, Rouen's chinchilla, with its endearing paw-print lining, £22.50 (£45).

My son, however, has other ideas. In Peter Jones he spotted Karl Donoghue's wildly eccentric shock of curly black Mongolian lamb. For just £79 (£115), he tells me, I can have a hat that will lend me the violent allure of Dennis the Menace's identical twin sister.

SIX OF THE BEST

Keep ties neat and tidy

SILVER WIRE, £5.95
Simple flat modern shape holds 10 ties, although they can slip off the metal prongs. Muhl, Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0181-348 3848), 8/10

LEATHER, £575
Absurdly extravagant, but a beautifully crafted way to store three ties. Hermès, 179 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-823 1014), 8/10

PLASTIC WALL HANGER, £8.99
Unattractive box with weak self-adhesive tabs — it needs to be secured with screws. Hinks 50 ties, Leinster Snook, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-629 1234), 8/10

STRAIGHT BLOCK, £16.50
Smart combination of cedar and brass pins to be mounted on a wall. Takes 24 ties, ideal for a dressing room, but less suitable for a bedroom. Woodlore from The Holding Company, 241-245 Kings Road, SW3 (0171-610 9100), 8/10

FLAT HANGER, £10
Flat shape that takes up very little space yet still holds 20 ties, but threading them through the metal rings can be fiddly. Debenhams branches nationwide (0172-408 4444), 7/10

CEDAR HANGER, £24.75
Large solid cedar hanger that holds 40 ties. A bobbie at the end of each pin stops them from falling off. Woodlore at The Holding Company, as before, (0171-610 9100)

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRET

WARDROBE

SUPER SUIT SPREE

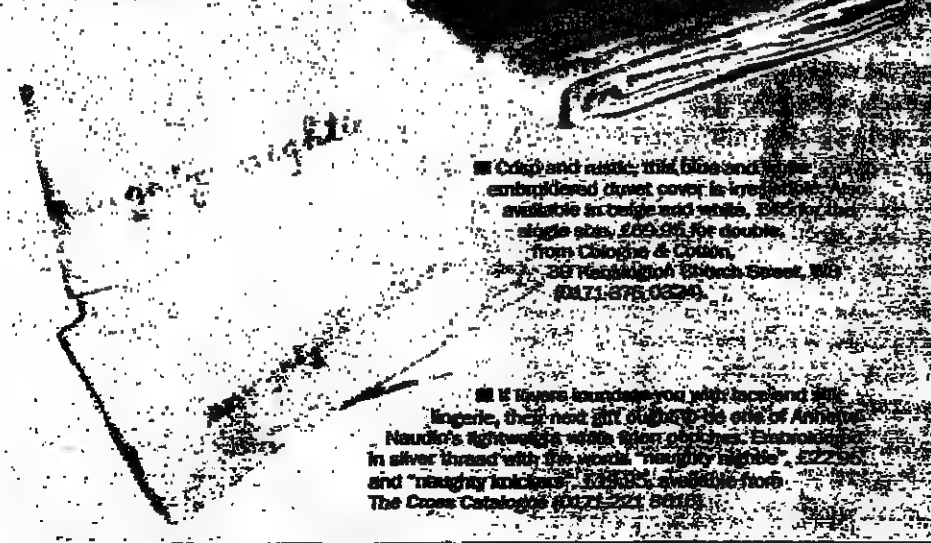
Beautifully Cut Suits
- International Designer Labels
at one off sale prices
- From £99 - Sizes 8-20

Sunday January 31st 1999
11am - 5pm

Wardrobe, 42 Conduit Street, W1
Tel 0171 494 1131

ONE DAY ONLY

Objects of desire



■ *Objects of desire*, the book that will help you to find the perfect gift for your loved ones, is available in paperback and hardcover. The paperback costs £10.95, the hardcover £14.95. For details, contact David Laundy at 100 Regent Street, London, W1 (0171-575 0294).

■ If you are looking for a book that will help you to find the perfect gift for your loved ones, then you need to get your hands on *Objects of Desire*. This book is a treasure trove of ideas and inspiration, and it is the perfect guide to finding the perfect gift for your loved ones. It is available in paperback and hardcover, and it is the perfect guide to finding the perfect gift for your loved ones.

HOT TIP



A quick remedy for chapped skin is Porter's Lotion. The combination of witch-hazel, camphor and rosemary oil was developed more than 60 years ago in a pharmacy in Boston, Massachusetts, and it can be used all over the body to soothe irritated and dry skin. £11.95 from Farmacia, 169 Drury Lane, London, WC2 (0171-831 0830)

CELESTINE, £24.75
Large solid cedar hanger that holds 40 ties. A bobbie at the end of each pin stops them from falling off. Woodlore at The Holding Company, as before, (0171-610 9100)

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRET

STAPLES
The Office Superstore

WHY PAY MORE?



£20.99

UNBEATABLE LOW PRICES ON OVER 7,000 OFFICE PRODUCTS

48 SUPERSTORES • FREEPHONE 0800 14 14 14 FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE OR TO PLACE YOUR ORDER

THE SUNDAY

PRESENT

Valentine

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

tommy

AND

tommy

girl

WRITE YOUR MESSAGE

EACH SUBSCRIBER LINE

YOUR DETAILS

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

I enclose a cheque/PO for £

Or debit my credit card by £

Credit Card No



Time for a chat: in the age of electronic communication, people are losing the simple social skills of empathy, good manners, intuition and tolerance

Losing the human touch

Say goodbye to human life: we can get by with a human moment. The latest thinking from American business gurus is that employers should introduce a "human moment" into the working day. This would be an interlude in which e-mailing has to stop and people must talk to each other.

In an eight-page study in the *Harvard Business Review* this week, David Hallowell, a psychologist specialising in executive stress, defines the human moment as "an authentic psychological encounter that can happen only when two people share the same physical space". He recommends it for workers who have "fallen victim to virtuality". This means so much of their communication is through non-human tools such as e-mail, voicemail and automated response systems, that they are losing the ability to relate to each other.

At last. A name for it: that deep depression that grips the soul on a day when you have sent ten e-mails which nobody has answered, been hassled to

A report says that we are spending too much time communicating through technology. Celia Brayfield calls for the return of personal contact

buy Viagra by a fax mailing system and wasted half an hour on the telephone to Ikea, finding out that the widget you need is not available in barch veneer. We are all victims of virtuality now.

But this perk for the technostressed worker is not meant as a kind of virtual tea break, a blessed window in which people can be themselves instead of cogs in a machine. No, no, no. The human moment is intended to "build confidence and trust at work", so that people can graft harder, sell more stuff and generate more profit. So no change there.

The man has a point, even if he makes it in psychology. Attention is creeping into our lives like the parasitic moss which crept over the fertile fields of Ancient Ireland and turned them into bogs. Nobody believes the answering system when it thanks them

for calling Ikea. E-mails may be generated by human beings, but the conventions of the medium rule out politeness: thanking anybody for anything is a waste of screen.

New communication tools are stripping out layers of our humanity — conversation, charm, empathy, intuition, tolerance and acceptance. Dr Hallowell would probably call these social skills. Our grandmothers would have regarded them as good manners. Which ever, they are abilities we need to live together and they are developed by practice, at the cost of some exposure and embarrassment: low on the learning curve.

People are less and less able to be people, especially those who find detachment more comfortable than talking anyway. Thus the teenage anorak who, a decade ago, would have been dragged to a school

dance and achieved eye contact once in the evening, will now stay away and think he is talking to girls in Internet chat rooms. He can make dates, earn money and download half his education without having to wash, dress or leave his room. And a lot of them do.

This behaviour is not restricted to teenagers. There are many marriages in which the computer has become the third person in the relationship and the one to turn to in times of trouble. Those in "people professions" are beginning to panic: FRs complain that nobody goes to parties any longer, sales executives cannot pitch without a programme to follow. I know of one company which has a problem finding a receptionist who can smile and say "hello".

Virtual culture, like drug culture, has its own values by which the victims judge their antisocial behaviour to be normal. Consider the case of Samuel Simpson, aged two. Sam is a pre-school Nintendo nerd. He spends all his waking time playing video games, throws tantrums if he has to eat or have his nappy changed, and his favourite word is "Die". His mother claims that she is lucky because "I have friends with children the same age and you see them clutching at their mums all the time and demanding attention. I don't get that with Sam."

The ultimate casualty of this new emotional illiteracy is love. People no longer talk over the garden fence; nobody is content with the boy next door any more. Like Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks in Nora Ephron's film *You've Got Mail*, they go on a Net-quest for their ideal partner. Dating has become an ordeal because people treat each other like commodities. They look for love not with open hearts but with checklists of desirable attributes and the compulsion to tick off the lot. They cannot cope with individuality, and see any giving they might do as conditional on the other party meeting their specifications.

"I told them from day one what I liked and he is very, very good," said Carla Germaine, the "blind-date bride" who met her husband at the altar after a Birmingham radio station matched them without a meeting. With a free flat and a holiday in the Bahamas as rewards, they had a compatibility assessment in place of chemistry, faced a lie detector instead of dating and took psychometric tests instead of meeting each other's families.

"How can she not be my perfect partner?" asked the groom. The couple were chosen from 210 applicants. The people most disturbed by virtual vicariousness are those who know most about it — the young. The cult cartoon *South Park* satirised the condition in an episode in which

flesh-eating zombies terrorised a town. Children called the police, only to hear an automated voice say: "If your town is being terrorised by flesh-eating zombies, press one..."

People under 20 are worried. A survey of attitudes among young people in Europe, conducted by the GfK market research company, found that their main fear was the loneliness caused by electronic working. Employers may find that they have to offer more than a human moment if they want to employ human beings at all.

Hate the taxman? No, make him a duke

Many people wonder why journalists are among the last people to file their tax returns. In particular, why it is that even now — with only three days to go before we incur mandatory financial penalties from the Inland Revenue for late returns — many of us are still going through the shoebox in which we keep our important financial paperwork and business receipts, desperately trying to calculate the following:

(a) Why the shoebox is full of old wedding invitations, thank-you letters for parties attended in 1993 but still awaiting a stamp before being posted, children's milk teeth wrapped in tissues and mysteriously hidden here for safe-keeping by the tooth fairy, and an emergency cache of rubber bands large enough to depress Malaysian latex prices were I to offload them on to the free market (which I might).

(b) Whether this means that we have sent all our earnings details, royalty statements, chits and invoices to our friends as wedding presents, or left them under children's pillows in lieu of pound coins, or maybe slipped pound coins under the pillows of sleeping hostesses to thank them for a weekend stay.

(c) Whether — if none of the above applies, and provided we are not planning to offset any capital gains liabilities resulting from the amortisation of agricultural outbuildings against our dividends from foreign debentures — we should just be ticking the "no" box and moving straight on to Question 16.5 on the tax return.

The answer, of course, is that journalists like to work as close as possible to our deadlines because the adrenalin that courses through our bodies as the clock ticks often triggers the magical phrase that removes all the anxiety from the situation, the phrase being: "Put the shoebox away again, quickly."

We also leave everything to the last minute because we are ruthlessly trained to work with the most recent information available. In this we have made a rod for our own backs, since it is a technique that forces us to rely for information solely on that morning's newspapers (supplemented by plausible gossip invented by a colleague who has just returned from lunch with a minister), regardless of how much we might prefer to spend hours in the library researching a topic.

And this year we have struck lucky, because the latest tax-payment information — provided by Tony Blair this very week — is that life is about far more than money. The point he is trying to make is that instead of simply writing out large cheques to nurses, teachers and Inland Revenue staff, we

should be making the effort to remind our tax collectors that work in the public sector has its own unique rewards — rewards which, in the Prime Minister's own moving words, "money can't buy".

So, acting on this up-to-the-minute fiscal guidance, I have decided against sending my tax collector another insulting cheque. This year I'm going to reward this worthy public servant in another, more fulfilling way — once again in line with Tony Blair's latest thinking — by making him a life peer.

But just because Downing Street wants to reward public servants with a seat in the Lords, there is no reason that we should also be so timid. I myself intend to go even further: in order to give my local tax inspector a little extra vocational satisfaction, as well as some career incentive, I'll also be dropping a subtle hint in my answer to Question 27.14 that should my earnings improve dramatically during the forthcoming tax year, I might well consider making him a marquess in lieu of my 1998-99 tax payment. And if my prospects continue to blossom, who knows, he might find himself a duke before long.

This also seems a more elegant way to conduct the nation's tax affairs. While we are all in favour of taxes and the vital things they are spent on — the National Health Service, helping the unemployed, ensuring there is a always a seat on Concorde for Jack Cunningham — tax collection has become rather drab. Handing tax inspectors seats in the Lords in lieu of taxes would be more in keeping with Britain's colourful history of revenue-raising. Income tax itself is a recent tax-

paying convention. If you visited the exhibition held at Somerset House this month to mark the 200th anniversary of income tax, you would have learnt that taxes used to be levied on far less dreary barometers of wealth than cash, such as chimneys, windows, hair powder, servants and even dogs.

Pooch tax was introduced at the end of the 18th century as one of a range of money-raising schemes to finance the Napoleonic Wars. Tax assessors would visit your home in the middle of the night, give the front door a kick and then guess at the number of dogs you owned by the volume of barking and by how many snouts appeared at the window, thereby making tax assessors the first people who actually tried to evaluate how much that doggy in the window was worth.

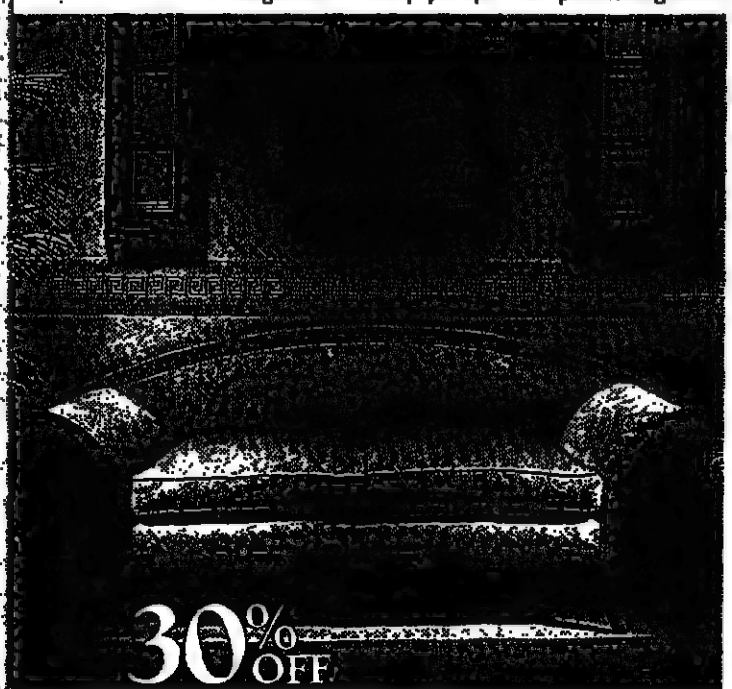
Such dogged behaviour might lead you to think that all taxmen are mad. But personally, I think they deserve a medal. After all, why let them be dogged when we can so easily lionise them instead?



MAN ON THE SIDE
JOE JOSEPH

SALE

During the Winter Sale our entire collection of exclusive international brand and designer furniture is reduced to save you 20% to 50% off our usual prices. Enjoy some of the most exciting furniture in the UK, and let our free interior design service help you put the pieces together.



30% OFF

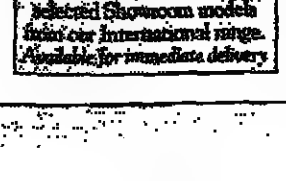
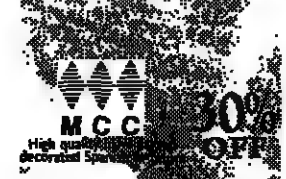
IMPERO SOFA FROM M.C.C.

This elegant Biedermeier style piece has a beautiful swept arm and hand painted detail over the warm maple finish. Also available in many other frame and fabric combinations. Part of the M.C.C. Bagus furniture collection exclusive to Furniture Village International. During our Winter Sale this superb range is reduced by 30%.

GENUINE INTEREST FREE CREDIT 0% APR

FURNITURE Village INTERNATIONAL

Maple House 145 Tottenham Court Road
London W1 0171 387 7000



THE SUNDAY TIMES

PRESENTS
Valentine's Day

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
tommy AND tommy girl

The Sunday Times offers you the opportunity to place a Valentine's message in the paper on Sunday February 14th 1999. In addition we will send a 50ml bottle of Tommy Girl (RRP £25) or Tommy (RPP £22) together with a note which reads: "Look for your message in the Sunday Times on Valentine's Day". The books form £35 for a minimum 3-line message and a 50ml fragrance. Please indicate whether the male or female fragrance is required by ticking the relevant box below.

The most romantic message published will win a romantic holiday for two.

WRITE YOUR MESSAGE BELOW - ONE WORD PER BOX		NO. LINES	PRICE
		1	£35
		2	£45
		3	£55
		4	£65
		5	£75
		6	£85
		7	£95
		8	£105
		9	£115
		10	£125
		11	£135
		12	£145
		13	£155
		14	£165
		15	£175
		16	£185
		17	£195
		18	£205
		19	£215
		20	£225
		21	£235
		22	£245
		23	£255
		24	£265
		25	£275
		26	£285
		27	£295
		28	£305
		29	£315
		30	£325
		31	£335
		32	£345
		33	£355
		34	£365
		35	£375
		36	£385
		37	£395
		38	£405
		39	£415
		40	£425
		41	£435
		42	£445
		43	£455
		44	£465
		45	£475
		46	£485
		47	£495
		48	£505
		49	£515
		50	£525
		51	£535
		52	£545
		53	£555
		54	£565
		55	£575
		56	£585
		57	£595
		58	£605
		59	£615
		60	£625
		61	£635
		62	£645
		63	£655
		64	£665
		65	£675
		66	£685
		67	£695
		68	£705
		69	£715
		70	£725
		71	£735
		72	£745
		73	£755
		74	£765
		75	£775
		76	£785
		77	£795
		78	£805
		79	£815
		80	£825
		81	£835
		82	£845
		83	£855
		84	£865
		85	£875
		86	£885
		87	£895
		88	£905
		89	£915
		90	£925
		91	£935
		92	£945
		93	£955
		94	£965
		95	£975
		96	£985
		97	£995
		98	£1005
		99	£1015
		100	£1025

EACH SUBSEQUENT LINE WILL BE CHARGED AT £1.00

YOUR DETAILS: Name, Address, Postcode, Telephone

YOUR VALENTINE'S DETAILS: Name, Address, Postcode, Male ☐ Female ☐

I enclose a cheque/PO for £... made payable to Times Newspapers Limited. Please send this coupon with no return to: Valentine's Messages, The Sunday Times, PO Box 484, Virginia Street, London E10 0BL. Tel: 0171 782 7700. Email: valentines@times.co.uk

CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS 0171 481 4000

Lines open Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm

LOW PRICES ON ICE PRODUCTS
PLACE YOUR ORDER

Sling your hook, Mr Redwood

Hague should have the nerve to face down his old lags

I was in the summer immediately after the general election that I first advocated early retirement for the Tory old lags in the Shadow Cabinet. What were they still doing there? Didn't they have homes to go to, wives to see, children to discover, new avenues to pursue? They were patently doing their party no good. Why couldn't they move on and get a life?

The article was written more in friendship than in malice. I know some of the wives concerned and had watched the sacrifices that they had to endure while their husbands were in government. The men had had a good run, the Michael Howards, Peter Lilleys and John Redwoods of this world, holding many of the great offices of state between them. Why could they not content themselves with their places in history, leave the suffocating and somewhat demeaning world of Shadow frontbench politics, and learn to be care-free human beings again?

For Messrs Howard, Lilley and Redwood must surely know that they will never become party leader, let alone Prime Minister. And assuring that Labour does not lose the next election, which is as safe an assumption in politics as any, William Hague must be prepared to keep them in his team for another Parliament and a half. Does John Redwood really want to wait until 2006 just to become Trade and Industry Secretary?

This week the Tory party was convulsed by suggestions that Mr Hague intended to sack the old guard and bring in some fresh, new talent. From his point of view, that would be exactly the right thing to do, sooner rather than later. Sadly, it seems, he won't. And it does not look as if they will go, of their own accord, with dignity intact.

It is easy to see why he appointed them in the first place. He wanted the other leadership contenders outside to promote a semblance of unity. (Only Kenneth Clarke had the sense to say no.) And at just 36, Mr Hague needed older and wiser heads to advise him. But what seemed a temporary tiding-over has now set into a permanent mould. Lord Parkinson did his promised year and a quarter. Brian Mawhinney went (what on earth was he doing there in the first place?); but the others cling on, losing the Tories a percentage point in the polls each time they appear on *Newsnight*. When I was on a *Question Time* panel recently with John Redwood, I could feel the instant prickly hostility of the audience as he spoke. So could he, as the evening progressed, his pallor greyed and his scowl set hard.

Whenever people start to weary of new Labour, they look at old Tories and despair. Yesterday's MORI poll showed the extraordinary spectacle of Labour rising by two points to its highest level since autumn 1997, and the Conservatives dropping by three, even though voters were highly critical of Labour "messes". But the hapless Tory leader still

does not get it. He fell into the trap of issuing a strong denial of the reshuffle story, thereby ensuring that the old guard's position in the Shadow Cabinet is now stronger than ever. Does he have no inkling of the effect these men have on the public? When I suggest that such reminders of the past are debilitating for the Tories, the rejoinder always comes: then why is Ann Widdecombe so popular? Well, she too was hated until she made her own glorious break with the past by denouncing Mr Howard as having "something of the night about him". Anyone who could say that must surely have something to recommend her. But her colleagues have made no such break.

Of course these old lags could turn against Mr Hague on the back benches and make his life even more miserable. Yesterday, Michael Heseltine was at it. The former Deputy Prime Minister was attacking Mr Hague for the only decent policy the Tories have — indeed the only policy they have at all — opposition to the euro. Mr Hague may fear more of these spats. But he should fear keeping the old lags more, for they will never be popular, whereas standing up to them could be. People see these rows as "Tory divisions" only if the leader treats them as threats, not opportunities. The best response Mr Hague has made so far has been to deride his critics as "yesterday's men". It may sound harsh to the party faithful, but it resounds in the country.

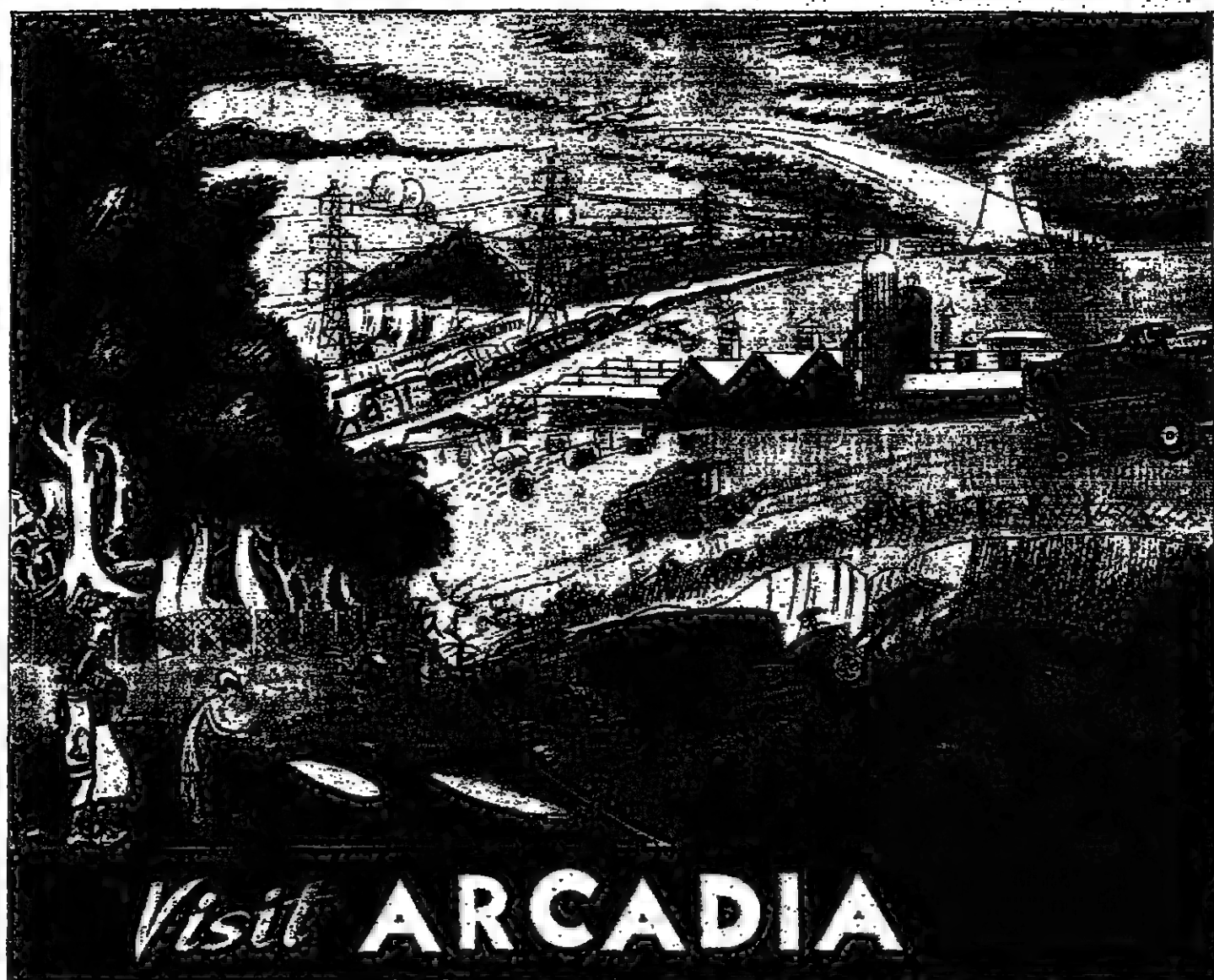
You have to sympathise with Mr Hague: if these are yesterday's men, it is hard to see how tomorrow's people are coming from. The new Shadow Cabinet entrants are hardly enthralling: even the thoughtful, clever ones such as Francis Maude and David Heathcoat-Amory have left no heavier a mark than a fly alighting on a leaf. The layer below them is almost uniformly unimpressive. Mr Hague may have to look to the 1997 intake to refresh his ranks.

But, if he calls the old guard and distances himself properly from the Major regime, he can turn the affair to his advantage. When Tony Blair took on the Left, he compounded his popularity. These battles, in the hands of a successful leader, are seen not as party divisions, but as brave moves against unpopular foes. The trouble is that Mr Hague, in his complacency, makes the late John Smith look dynamic. His policy review has produced nothing new, and promises nothing, even in draft, until later this year. Voters may turn against Labour, but they will not transfer their affections to the Tories until they know what the party is for. At the moment, all they see is a bunch of middle-aged men whom they thought they had already resoundingly rejected. Is it any wonder that Mr Hague's party languishes so?

maryann.sieghart@the-times.co.uk



Mary Ann Sieghart



Metroland-on-Avon

The countryside has become just another stultifying suburban sprawl

I used to think houses in the country were for saints or fools. They must be preserved. But they are fortunes, ruined marriages and dulled the culture of the mind. Above all they seduced the urban middle class to a Virgilian presence, that the answer to some overwhelming question lay "in the soil". The weekend flight to the country was a slither back down the evolutionary tree. At the far end of the M4 lay only primeval slime. Small wonder youth and enterprise ran screaming to the city.

Yet without the country and its houses, townsmen realised they would have nothing to look at on long drives. They panicked. They flattered the occupiers of the landscape. They subsidised their wurdies and gave them Jilly Cooper and Joanna Trollope. They converted Jane Austen into *The Archers* and gave Michelin stars to country-house hotels. It worked a treat. Since the last war, millions of pounds have been sunk into conserving rural England. We owe its custodians, some of them, our thanks not our derision.

Country Life this week publishes a survey of this process as a review of 20 years of house advertisements. It offers a fascinating glimpse of middle-class migration across southern England. The story is one of steady colonisation. As agriculture recedes, it is replaced by townies fleeing the city. We see families racing down motorways, estate cars crammed with wellies, crying children and supplies from Marks & Spencer. They peer through the Friday rain in search of that corner of a furtive field that is forever Islington. They must have a place in the country. Everyone they know has a place in the country. Come hell or highwater, they cannot be seen in London at weekends.

The *Country Life* advertisements plot this exotic invasion. They begin with the heavy guns of the great estates, and end in the rattling infantry of old rectories and farmhouses. The battlefield is the territory over which urban England means to make each new advance. After the last war, the "second-home" leapfroghed the old suburbs. They read Wodehouse and sought, like Psmith at Blandings, "urbs in rure". They wanted town sophistication but with the social furniture subtly rearranged. They wanted to talk town to "affinity couples", but they also wanted to talk country to the occasional local. They are like

memorabilia with a few words of Hindi.

During the 1970s the survey has them flooding the North Downs and Chilterns. Surrey, Berkshire and Kent embraced three quarters of all houses advertised in the magazine. Then came the motorways and access to what *Country Life* calls "real country". The Home Counties slumped to just 15 per cent of the total. By the end of the 1980s, buyers were swarming into Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire. The royals did for the Cotswolds what their Hanoverian forebears had done for Richmond and Kew. In 1970 a place in Gloucestershire meant sheep and straw, and went for £60,000 with land. By 1990 it was dusted with pure gold at ten times that price. In that decade of royal marriages and Highgrove chic, the number of houses for sale in that county doubled. Thousands of farmers must have cashed in and vanished.

Gloucestershire, says *Country Life*, is now eclipsed by points west. A third of the houses surveyed today are in the West Country, territory opened up by the twin salients of the M5 and the A303. Dorset and Wiltshire have fallen. Somerset and Devon are the goal. Journey times are near intolerable. There are Londoners who will spend eight hours, an entire working day, travelling to and from a weekend house. There cannot be a ball or dale, a down,combe or marsh in southern England without its colony. They cry with one voice. Can anyone do Taunton in two hours? Where is the "adorable man who does in the village"? Whom do we know and whom can we possibly mix? Where round here can you get decent pâté, or a signal for the mobile, or help?

The houses too have changed. Nobody now wants unconverted houses. Old barns, cottages and windmills are too much hassle. In the 1970s the advertisements never mentioned kitchens. Now they all do, preferably with Aga. Listed too are nannys' rooms, saunas and swimming pools. Big gardens are a nuisance. Nobody wants land. In 1980, 28 per cent of advertised houses boasted more than ten acres. Just 4 per cent do today. In 1980 a third of the market was for houses with farms. Farms are scarcely mentioned today. Houses are required fully equipped and with neat, easily managed grounds. In other words, demand for rural property costing more than £250,000 has "suburbanised".

Where next? With the virtual collapse of countryside development control under the Tories, southern England is set to become Virginia Water from Hyde Park to Land's End. An ersatz ruralism is spreading the breadth of the land. Nor is the requirement just for weekend retreats. The biggest growth is in medium-sized houses, with four reception rooms and

"family quarters". Buyers are life-changers. They plan four-day weekends, telecommuting, "seeing if we can live in the country while the children are small". Still dependent on the city for income, such buyers see countryside as a backcloth to a "virtual" urban lifestyle. They want accessible seduction, a dormitory online to civilisation. They inhabit what geographers call ex-urbia. It is Metroland reborn a hundred miles away.

Perhaps because I have mostly lived in cities, I find such homes-from-home curiously disrupted. Families are neither real town nor real country, but migratory, like diplomats carrying friends and baggage in their car boots. Few have the time or taste for country pursuits, yet even less for the cultural stimuli and social serenity of the city. The sparrow on the shoulder is not for them, Thoreaus

noble epaulette. Yet they constantly bewail that they have "no time for art galleries". Theirs is not the majestic calm of Lord Emsworth's pig. It is the restlessness of someone always worrying if he should be at the other end of a motorway.

In the past three years I have visited probably half the villages in England. Midweek, many of those cited in *Country Life* advertisements look as if they have been hit by the plague. They are ghostly stage sets, awaiting the arrival of strolling players. You can drive through many villages on a Tuesday or Wednesday and see not a living soul. For the dormitory suburb, how read the dormitory landscape. A puppy is not just for Christmas. Perhaps a country house is not just for weekends. Apart from anything else, it asks to be robbed.

Yet this implies as romantic a vision of countryside as does Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia*. The future of the landscape lies not in breeding some new class of kulkals. It lies in the same newcomers, second-homeers, M4 somnambulists and Volvo voracious, to whom *Country Life* is appealing. Whether we like it or not, these are the true patrons of the new landscape. Without them, the country would be dead. Some will scuttle back to the city, bored out of their minds. But most will leave behind some lucrative flotsam, tenants, work-in-hand, and abandoned spouses with alimony, to prop up the local church and the village store, to comfort the vicar and sponsor the local arts festival. They will finance what the rest of us profess to love.

After the last war, Oxford's School of Geography surveyed the rural Midlands and concluded that depopulation and free trade would kill it. The farms would fall to ruin. The villages would empty. The landscape would return to scrub forest. This could not have been more wrong. The English countryside has pulled off one of the coups of economic history. Unable to support itself, it has sucked taxes and attention out from the city. It has beguiled, seduced and often impoverished any who might find urban life too tough a challenge. Hundreds of thousands of Britons pour into the countryside every weekend, hurtingling themselves in sacrifice on the altar of ruralism.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Simon Jenkins



Ffion's switch

FFION JENKINS nearly became an MP — in the Liberal Democrat interest. William Hague's good lady wife was headhunted by the Lib Dems as an election candidate shortly before William caught her eye. As a spirited member of the media, she was a private secretary in the Welsh Office and her father, Emrys, is chief executive of the Welsh Arts Council. She was seen by local party workers as a prime candidate to take over from Alex Carlile.

He said he was giving up his Montgomery seat in June 1996 to spend more time with his family and his lucrative billet at the Bar. The proposal was put to Ffion, and it was several days before the Lib Dems were told to seek another candidate. By December 1996 she was being courted by William, and Lembit Opik — now an outside candidate for the party leadership — had secured the nomination.

● HEREDITARY peers are succumbing to their Armageddon with gusto. Lord Strathclyde, the top leader of the Conservatives (below), tells me he is considering calling his new daughter Blankina, after the eloquent EastEnders (below).



Talking back

BREAKFAST sofa wars: Charlie Whelan is to take on Richard and Judy. Gordon Brown's erstwhile spin-doctor is to present a daytime chat show on Channel 4.

Whelan will grill former victims (Labour ministers, etc) and give a beginners' guide to spinology. "I am hoping to get Mr Blair and Mr Hague to appear," he tells me. Mandelson, as I first disclosed, is too busy house-hunting.

● JOHNNY DEPP seems to share the sensible shoe brigade's passion for Monet. Dressed in foppish beryl and baby shirt, the actor walked into a \$600 art shop with a snooty French muse and demanded the largest canvas in the shop.

Food fight

PROTESTERS against genetically modified food will deliver 1,000 letters to No 10 next week. But their companions, a six-legged pantomime cow and a mutant fish-tailed tomato will be excluded for "security reasons".

● JAMIE CANN'S admission that sex takes up no more than 2 per cent of a Labour MP's life did not surprise colleagues. As a man who gained the nickname of "Canned" after a drink-drive conviction, he clearly enjoys other entertainments more.



Good act

THE distinction between appearance and reality: an early philosophical lesson. A well-constructed blonde rascal from the first night of *OklaHoma!* to the cast party to seduce the leading man, Hugh Jackman, who plays a swaggering cowboy. "Imagine that deep voice singing in the bath," she cooed. So imagine her reaction when she saw a preening thesp in a white cravat.

● ROGER BLACK finds his job as the presenter of a BBC low-fat health video so dispiriting that the sprinter runs from the film crew to revive himself with chocolate.

Broad vision

TONY BANKS: polybiath. "I like Emile Zola and Gide. Zola, but national morale is boosted by wins on the football pitch more than operas at Covent Garden."

JASPER GERARD

'Anachronistic, no doubt, but demmit, what could be more fun than a warm bath of stylish tosh on a Sunday night?'

Lud, Madam! It's "That damned, elusive Pimpernel". Demmed, demmed, not damned. The BBC television cloak-and-dagger, Tricolour-and-tripe, gallant and galliard historicals about the Scarlet Pimpernel on Sunday nights drives me back to the children's bookshelf. And what tosh the books and the programmes are. But what enjoyable tosh for those of us who cannot meet a swash without wondering how it would perform when buckled.

And part of the attraction is their camp and unconvincing Regency court jargon. Odd's life and La-de-da! Demmed was not how Regency bucks pronounced it. But the Baroness Orzy version is what sticks in the childhood memory. It was batty of the Beeb to chuck away the barb of the plot by letting us know from the beginning that the Scarlet Pimpernel is Sir Percy

Blakeney. That is meant to come as a shock to the simple. Parbleu. And kitting Sir Percy out with a James Bond set of secret tools in his underwear is simply ridiculous. That Old Harrovian flop, whose clothes were the talk of the jeunesse dorée of London, would never have allowed such a bulky tricoloured swiftole to spoil the cut of his shot saint knickerbockers.

If you want a thrilling but historical account of the French Revolution in English, you do better to read *The Tale of Two Cities*. Hilary Mantel, Richard Cobb or Carlyle. Orzy is so infatuated with aristos that she ignores the rights of man and the causes of the Revolution. Remember La Bruyère's crashing crescendo on peasants before the Revolution: "L'on voit certains animaux farouches." These wild animals, male and female, black, sun-scorched and livid,

grubbing in the mud with invincible stubbornness. When they stand up, they have human faces. You might not believe this, but they are human beings.

In spite (because?) of being a shady Hungarian aristocrat by birth, Orzy is crashingly chauvinist and snobbish about England. Her frequent references to the Englishness of certain qualities itself sounds distinctly un-English. Marguerite is continually referred to as "the most intelligent woman in Europe", but this claim is never substantiated by anything she does or says. Nor by the apparent Wonderbra models who have played her, since Merle Oberon in the 1934 film that made the names of Leslie Howard and

Philip Howard



Raymond Massie. The books and television are sport for anachronism-watchers, as when Sir Percy Blakeney burns a ballad by Edgar Allan Poe.

The discreet erotic passion is even farther over the top in print than on the screen. In the mode of most heroes of torgette-budice ogles, unknown to Marguerite, Percy is besotted with her. "He was but a man, blindly, passionately in love, and as soon as her light footstep had died away within the house, he knelt down on the terrace steps, and in the very madness of his love he kissed one by one the places where her small feet had trodden, and the stone balustrade there where her tiny hand had

rested last." Cor. Or rather, Zounds and demmit, citizen.

But historical romances are a fine genre. If we leave out Virgil and Geoffrey of Monmouth, Walter Scott is a lively introduction to medieval Scotland and Ivanhoe gadabout. Our young imaginations are attracted to Romans by *Fuck of Pook's Hill* and *I, Claudius*, to Hadrian by *Yennepus*; to Harold and Normans by *The Golden Warrior*; to *Gone With the Wind* and *Lampbrush*; to Rose Macaulay on Herakles' Devonshire and Milton's Cambridge on the eve of the Civil War; Renault and Sutcliffe.

Historical novelists can personalise, take sides, omit the boring bits, romanticise, delight, fill in the gaps with inventions. When they know their history, they can bring it to life and lead us on to the real thing, such as the

Osborne letters or Gibbon. Most of us are more interested in people than in abstractions, in human nature than economics or geopolitics.

In this game, the Scarlet Pimpernel plays nowhere near the premier league. Its success on stage and screen is a phenomenon. As a little-known writer, Orzy was offered £30 for all rights by a niggardly publisher. Haughtily (canilly?) she turned him down. And in the following year the stage production made Sir Percy the star he has remained. Chauvelin is a deliciously complex villain. And those things do best please me! That do fall preposterously. The best in this kind are but shadows; and the worst are no worse. If imagination amend them. So on Sunday night, before the rigours of Monday morning, a warm bath of stylish tosh is just what the Revolution ordered.



THE BELL DEBATE

The Lords, *The Times* and complaints against the press

When *The Times* serialised *Cries Unheard*, Gitta Sereny's book about the child murderer Mary Bell, last spring, we knew that our decision would be controversial. The crimes were terrible; so was the deprived childhood that shaped the killer. We knew that some of our readers would feel strongly that we were wrong, the more so because money had been paid to Bell for co-operating with the author. Sharp emotions were then aroused by the hounding, by tabloid newspapers, of Mary Bell, forcing her to reveal her true identity to her innocent daughter. We went ahead with serialisation, not lightly, but because we were convinced that a clearer understanding of the making of young murderers, and their subsequent handling by the penal system, is firmly in the public interest, and that this book made an important contribution to that necessary exploration.

Last July, after exhaustive inquiry, the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) found that *The Times* had acted entirely within the voluntary code of journalistic practice which it is our firm policy to respect. But so central was the case to questions of freedom, responsibility and the public interest in a democracy that discussion continues. We publish today an extended report of Wednesday night's thoughtful debate on this subject in the House of Lords. The purpose of Lord McNally, who initiated the debate, extended far beyond his seemingly narrow question about "baiting" between the Home Office and the PCC. He sought to make a case for widening the PCC's duties to intervene even when the offended parties do not, as the Bell family did not, lodge a complaint: to give it quasi-judicial powers, including those to impose punitive fines; and for a law to prohibit direct or indirect payments to criminals outright, without the possibility of a public interest defence. The ensuing debate, for which the Lords mustered great legal and practical expertise, not only vindicated the stance of *The Times* in this particular case. The arguments advanced are a necessary corrective to those who, for the sincerest of motives, would wish to see the already extensive restrictions on freedom of information in this country further tightened by statute.

Lord Wakeham, the PCC's chairman,

rehearsed the grounds for its decision that, in the Bell case, there was an "overwhelming" case for serialisation. "The public interest," he said, "oozes from every pore of the book and in turn from the extracts from it which were serialised." It was "the first authoritative account of how the penal system deals with child criminals" and, as such, "was important and deserved a wide audience." It was a view that found broad and authoritative support. Equally significant, on civil rights grounds and in terms of Article 10 of the European Convention, were the caveats about a blanket ban on payments to criminals. And although the harassment of Mary Bell appalled their lordships as much as it appalled this newspaper at the time, the debate showed wide understanding that an expansion of the PCC's powers could create more problems, especially for those who cannot afford lawyers, than it would solve.

During the extensive debates on incorporating the European Convention, Lord Wakeham eventually managed to convince the Government that to give the PCC legal powers would be incompatible with self-regulation. It would undermine the PCC's authority with the newspapers which it polices, an authority which Lord Wakeham has greatly reinforced. For the Government, Lord Williams of Mostyn acknowledges that the PCC code already bars the press from making payments to criminals or their associates except where publication is "in the public interest" and payment is necessary for that to be done. That, he said, set a "high hurdle" for *The Times* — as it does for any newspaper. We would not wish it to be lower.

We would equally endorse his wider verdict, that there are dangers in "producing an over-formal tribunal," when the purpose is to remedy press wrongs to individuals while recognising that "a free press is bound, on occasion, to overstep the limits." This paper strives not to do so; we are pleased that our judgment in the Bell case has again been widely endorsed. Where truth and sensibilities come into conflict, there can never be an easy balance. Good journalism pursues truth without malice; but journalists know that what they find, and publish, may sometimes test the limits of acceptability.

POLLS APART

The quality of public services is Blair's real challenge

Twenty months beyond a landslide victory, Tony Blair and his Government continue to defy the laws of political gravity. In the Prime Minister's case it seems that what goes up stays there. After a month in which the assorted antics of Peter Mandelson, Geoffrey Robinson, Charlie Whelan and Robin Cook have rightly dominated the headlines, even committed supporters of the Labour Party assumed that there might be some modest impact on public opinion. In fact, as the MORI polls published in *The Times* over the past two days have illustrated, the Government has not only survived the events of the past four weeks but emerged with enhanced popularity.

This is not to suggest that the country has neither noticed nor disapproved of the display that has been placed before it. More than half of the electorate believes that the Government has not upheld high standards in public life — a sharp decline from the 55 per cent approval on this issue recorded in November 1997. These are not insignificant numbers. And yet the Mandelson affair appears to have reinforced cynicism about politics and politicians in general rather than about Mr Blair and his colleagues. On this, as many other matters, the Conservative Party has not yet rendered itself sufficiently credible with voters to benefit from the Cabinet's discomfort.

The other factor that may explain the extension of this longest of honeymoon concerns perceptions of the economy. The index of confidence (the balance between those with positive and negative economic expectations), which slumped dramatically last summer and reached the extraordinary low point of minus 46 points in October, has revived to stand at only half that level today. A full-blown recession would still be a powerful threat to Labour's standing. The Government may well,

however, be able to accommodate any slowdown short of such a slump.

Every set of silver linings has a cloud and for Mr Blair the most potent test may prove to be not mass unemployment but expectations of an improvement in the quality of public services. The Government is entering what the Prime Minister has described as "the year of delivery". There is plenty of evidence in our poll that the country is impatiently expecting signs of progress in these quarters. The conditions in the National Health Service (49 per cent), and education/schools (32 per cent), have become the top two issues for the electorate.

Some 47 per cent of voters do not believe that the Government has kept its pre-election promises. Discontent is sharply focused on these key areas. But there is little prospect that the Government will throw pots of money at the problems. Gordon Brown made it clear to both Cabinet and House of Commons yesterday that the public sector pay settlements to be announced early next week must be met within the cash limits that he set six months ago. The fragile balance of the economy has left him little alternative. This means that increased salaries will come at the expense of other initiatives. That in turn will limit ministers' freedom of manoeuvre.

For the past two years the Government has been at liberty to pass blame for public discontent with such services to its predecessor. The end of this period is fast approaching. At that point, if present policies have not persuaded the public of real change, the Government will have to choose between more expenditure and more radicalism. Without a compelling new Labour's popularity; but it will reveal much more about the political character of the Prime Minister and his Government.

SOME LIKE IT COLD

Winter in Britain is a terrible disappointment

Where are the snows of yesteryear? Already the days are getting longer, the daffodils are pushing through the earth, the winds are blowing temperately from the South West and, apart from Scotland, barely a flake of snow has fallen. Shakespeare's winter of icicles hanging by the wall is an ancestral memory; Victorian scenes of fur-clad ladies, snowy taverns and snorting horses prancing through the snow now seem more unreal than mawkish. There is as much chance of sunbathing in January as there is of building a snowman. Put away those fur hats: there is no bracing chill to be kept at bay, merely the clinging damp of the latest depression to settle over the British Isles.

For those tired of slush, thaw and premature blooms, Scandinavia may be a last refuge. Lapland has just endured the coldest night in a century, with temperatures of -51C. That is off the scale for

old-fashioned mercury thermometers, and can be measured only by alcohol-based ones. But in such cold, little alcohol is likely to be left undrunk. The Lapps are a hardy lot, but even they find it irksome when power lines snap, sledge dogs have to stay indoors and trains will not stop because the airbrakes fail. The Finns, however, came up with an indigenous solution: they lit their saunas, took off their clothes and spent the night in steamy nudity.

Surviving winter's grip is still a challenge in these northern lands. The temperate British sometimes long for extremes. Some recent summers, though, not the last, have approached Mediterranean heat. But winters are a disappointment. Will Britons ever again be able to roast on the Thames? When will blood be nipped, ways be foul and milk come frozen home in pain? To everything a season: our land may be green and pleasant, but surely not in winter. Some like it cold.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Bill restrictive of news reporting'

From the President of the Guild of Editors

Sir, As drafted, the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill, now before a Commons committee (letters, January 25), would have made it impossible to report in any meaningful way the Dunblane massacre, nursery nurse Lisa Potts's heroism or the murder of head teacher Philip Lawrence.

The Bill would have prevented full reporting of the case against Jonathan Aitken for putting lies into a statement by his teenage daughter at a libel trial.

It would also have prevented the newspaper which I edit, *The News of Portsmouth*, from identifying the three teenage occupants of the car involved in a recent crash with a minibus outside Waterloo, Hampshire, in which three people were killed (report, January 6). A fortnight later we are still receiving calls and letters thanking us for revealing their names.

In all these stories, the common factor is the involvement of people under the age of 18 whose identities, even as victims or witnesses, would be protected from the time of any allegation by the intended new law. The Bill would seem to ensure the disappearance of an entire generation from the news reports of almost any form of crime or potentially criminal activity.

This imbalance between shielding vulnerable young people and disclosing, in the public interest, events in which they have become involved is being resisted by editors.

From my own experience in Portsmouth it seems the public are firmly on our side, resenting the imposition of any more restrictive laws which will enable people to escape accountability for their actions.

Yours etc,
GEOFF ELLIOTT,
President,
Guild of Editors,
Bloomsbury House,
74-77 Great Russell Street,
London WC1B 3DA,
January 28.

Pinochet proceedings

From Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC

Sir, Rarely can there have been a case attracting more widespread public interest than the proceedings before the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords in the Pinochet affair (reports, January 19 to 22).

The Appellate Committee is a committee of that House; the televising of its proceedings is, therefore, not proscribed by the Criminal Justice Act 1925.

We saw their Lordships voting in the Chamber after the conclusion of the earlier Pinochet proceedings in November; but would not the current proceedings have been an occasion on which to experiment with the televising of actual judicial proceedings in this country?

Another opportunity is bound to arise.

Yours faithfully,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
138 Offord Road, NI 1PF,
January 22.

Ancient titles

From the Countess of Mar

Sir, In reply to his own question, "Who can lay claim to the oldest title in the Lords?", Alan Hamilton (report, January 21) puts forward Lord de Ros, whose title dates from 1264, and Lord Mowbray, Seagrave and Stourton (1283).

May I respectfully point out that, although Scottish peers were not admitted to the House of Lords until after the Act of Union of 1707, the Earldom of Mar was created in 1114, predating the baronies of Mowbray and Seagrave by 169 years?

As the thirty-first holder of the title, I am also an active member of the House of Lords.

Yours faithfully,
MAR,
House of Lords,
January 21.

All at sea

From Miss Alison Clayton

Sir, Your report (January 25) on the professionalism of women serving in the Royal Navy off Sierra Leone starts: "Drying panties have replaced pin-ups in HMS Norfolk's cabins." This undermines not only the advances women have made in the Navy since 1991 but the credibility of the report.

I am at a loss to understand what relevance there is, if any, between women's laundry and the work undertaken by both men and women serving within a difficult operational environment.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON CLAYTON,
163 Brighton Road,
Coulston, Surrey CR5 2YH.
alison.clayton@james.co.uk
January 25.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Viewers' choice on television sex

From Lady Howe of Aberavon, Chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Commission

Sir, No broadcaster likes to be criticised, and David Elstein (letter, January 27) makes, as usual, a spirited defence of Channel 5's position on transmitting "erotic fiction". But can I put the decision of the Broadcasting Standards Commission in context?

The commission has a responsibility under the Broadcasting Act to identify what it sees as developing trends within broadcasting (in this case with regard to the use of sex), to identify what its consequences might be, and to stimulate legitimate public debate.

Our most recent research, *Sex and Sensibility*, published this month (details, January 7), showed clearly that audiences expect sexual portrayal to be justified by its context, whether in drama or a factual programme. This research, in line with that conducted by the ITC, also suggests there is a different expectation about what should be available on free-to-air, as opposed to pay television. The commission took the research findings into account when reaching its conclusions. All of this is a long way, both in time and in tone, from the trial of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

After much careful discussion, the commission reached findings on the specific programmes which were the subject of complaint, including sexual violence in a film, *Centfold*, not mentioned by Mr Elstein. In our judgment the point of these programmes was clearly erotic. These findings are consistent with our recently revised code. We acted throughout within the mandate given by Parliament. There has been no abuse of procedures.

A commitment to "uncut movies" in a licence application is not the same as a specific promise of erotic films, as Mr Elstein appears to believe. But that is between Channel 5 and the ITC.

The commission works openly and independently. The decisions of the

commissioners, all publicly appointed, can be in favour of the broadcaster as well as the complainant. They are all published with an account of the reasoning that lies behind them. That is a useful and important public service on sensitive issues which are a matter of legitimate public interest but about which opinion is divided. The issue is not the commission's relevance but whether the public should have a right to redress.

Yours faithfully,
ELSPETH HOWE,
Chairman, Broadcasting Standards Commission,
7 The Sanctuary, SW1P 3JS,
January 27.

From the Director of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association

Sir, It is evident from the sexually explicit programmes and films screened by Channels 4 and 5 that the Independent Television Commission's programme code is defective.

It is, for instance, beyond understanding how the content of the recent 13-part series on Channel 5, *Sex and Shopping*, and *Renegade IV: Sex Beasts*, transmitted by Channel 4 last October, comply either with Section 1.5 of the ITC code which states:

The portrayal of sexual behaviour and of nudity needs to be defensible in context and presented with tact and discretion

or with the Broadcasting Act, which requires that programmes should not offend "good taste or decency".

What is needed, above all, is a regulatory authority which will devise a well-defined code and will have the strength and conviction to enforce it for the common good.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN C. BEYER,
Director, National Viewers' and Listeners' Association,
All Saints House, High Street,
Colchester, Essex CO1 1UG.
nationalvalia@compuserve.com
January 27.

Demand for new farm outlets

From Ms Nina Planck

Sir, Noting agriculture's declining importance to the economy, the Agriculture Select Committee suggests that farmers find something else to do (report, January 20). Collapsing farm prices are bad enough; now farmers must expect less cash support from the EU.

It is true that subsidies — which have led to overproduction and thus to lower prices and rural job losses — are part of the problem. But farmers don't need a new line of work. They need new markets. As the recent success of farmers' markets in more than 15 English towns demonstrates, notably in Bath and Bristol — new customers are both numerous and near.

The definition of a farmers' market is crucial: the seller must grow everything himself. Such markets have greatly benefited small and medium-sized farms in the US: the farmer reaps retail prices (often three times higher than wholesale), the shopper buys fresh, local foods, and the countryside stays economically productive, without recourse to tourism and theme parks.

Rural incomes and employment rise — all without government help.

Yours sincerely,
NINA PLANCK,
Islington Farmers' Market,
6 St Paul Street,
London N1 7AB,
January 20.

Furry friendships

From Mr John Hanner

Sir, I cannot agree that, as the subheading on Matthew Parris's article, "Furry friendships" (January 23), put it, "a fanatical devotion to animals is a disturbing sign of a damaged personality". It may be the reverse.

Impassivity towards animals and creatures generally would likely extend itself to the human species.

Affection and fondness is a desirable trait and is of considerable benefit to creatures, humans and the donor.

(The article is also at variance with the author's previous item, "In love with llamas", of November 21, 1997.)

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HANNER,
Little Calf Cood,
Kingwood, Raglan,
Monmouth NP5 1DS.
jhanner@adw@aol.com
January 24.

Online MPs

From Mr Nicolas Owen

Sir, The problem with e-mail in general and publishing e-mail addresses of Members of Parliament in particular (letter, January 27) is that anyone with five minutes spare and nothing to do can create needless work and expense for others by sending trivial messages that require acknowledgement.

This being a classic case in point.

Yours faithfully,
NICOLAS OWEN,
1 Bruce Grove,
Orpington, Kent BR6 0HF.
n.owen@mcmail.com
January 27.

Rewriting history to suit the screen

From Dr Munro Price

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("The camera often lies", January 23) is right: the increasingly cavalier attitude of British film and television to basic historical fact is getting hard to take.

The latest instance, BBC's drama offering of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, inhabits a fantasy world in which Robespierre was in power and the Terror in place in 1792, and France governed by a body, so far unknown to historians, named the Committee of General Surveillance (sic).

Though one accepts the need for some dramatic licence, the current tendency reveals a basic contempt for education and knowledge of the past; it piles on the solecisms, perhaps assuming that we are far too ignorant to notice the distortions we witness, and that if some of us do, we no longer care.

As a teacher of history, who feels strongly that a fair and accurate sense of the past is important for the health of any society, I find this discouraging.

Yours faithfully,
MUNRO PRICE,
Department of European Studies,
University of Bradford,
Bradford, West Yorkshire BD7 1DP,
January 24.

Unmistakably British

From Mr Duncan Francies

Sir, Philip Howard is right (article, January 22): Britishness is unmistakable. I have lived almost two years in this charming country, trying every day to be accepted as just another ordinary Greek guy. But the more I try the less I succeed.

Is it my slightly pink face and lack of decisive authority? Is it my ancient Burberry in the winter or M&S slacks in the summer? Should I chew gum and smoke cigarettes? Should I get angry and wave my arms about when they refuse to speak back to me in Greek?

And why do they speak English anyway, not French, German, Italian or Albanian? If anyone can tell me what it is about me that declares my nationality with such certainty at a hundred paces, please tell me. I will change it at once.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN FRANCIES,
17 Himaras Street,
Poleiteia, 145 62 Athens,
January 22.

From Miss Gabrielle Higgins

Sir, Philip Howard is mistaken on the subject of croquet. It is in fact played in the US, Australia, South Africa, Egypt, Spain and France, to name only a selection of countries.

What marks croquet out among games invented in Britain is that the British have remained the best in the world.

Yours faithfully,
GABRIELLE HIGGINS
(Secretary,
Oxford University Croquet Club),
Merton College, Oxford OX1 4JD.
gabrielle.higgins@merton.oxford.ac.uk
January 23.

Owners' rights

From Mr Sam Gratton

Sir, The legal advice offered me by Mr Neil Howlett (letter, January 20), regarding the discovery that a shabby "antiques shop" below a flat I had intended to purchase was in fact a brothel, was as informative as it was irrelevant.

Far from being a drawback, the proximity of the brothel was a welcome bonus. It was, as your article in Weekend (January 9) made clear, the prospect of it being converted to a kebab shop that worried me.

Yours etc,
SAM GRATTON,
51 Drayton Gardens,
South Kensington, SW10 9RX.
sam.gratton@hotmail.com
January 21.

A day to remember

From Mr R. K. Ellis

Sir, Is it spin, or merely a slip, that the entry of the UK into the Common Market in 1972 should be listed under Deaths in your Anniversaries column today?

Sincerely yours,
R. K. ELLIS,
2 St Elmos Road, SE16 1SA,
January 22.

Ungrateful taxman

From Dr Vivien Noakes

Sir, As the January 31 deadline for the submission of tax returns approaches, what a morale lift it would be if, instead of threats of fines for late delivery, the Inland Revenue were to write to each one of us at the end of the year to say thank you for the hard work and often long hours which have made possible our donation to the national coffers.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIEN NOAKES,
146 Hamilton Terrace, NWS 9UX,
January 25.

MAJOR-GENERAL MICHAEL HALFORD

He married Pamela Joy Wright in 1945. They had three sons. She and two sons survive him.

ORLANDUS WILSON

SIR REGINALD WILSON

Reginald Wilson was twice married and is survived by his second wife, Sonia, whom he married in 1938, and by a son and a daughter of his first marriage.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FOR SALE

A BRITISHATE Passenger Cabin
 1967-1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 26

AIR-RAID LAST NIGHT

The December raid, as *The Times* then observed, took the public somewhat by

ON THIS DAY

Again, the December raid began at an early hour. The warning came just as business

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS

eed our love and practical support, not just today but every day. Sadly, money cannot buy healthy kidneys but it can make life worth having.

Donations urgently needed by the
British Kidney Patient

British Kidney Patient Association

Borden, Hants. GU35 9JZ.
Reg. Charity No. 270288.

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS
Monty and the
case of the
big investors
PAGE 33



ARTS
Is Choque Hosein
the face of
pop's future?
PAGES 44-47



MEDIA
Jackson out
of running
for Birt's job
PAGES 40-43

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
Pages
54, 55

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JANUARY 29 1999

Ford agrees £4bn deal to buy Volvo's car division

By ADAM JONES

FORD has fought off competition from Fiat to agree a deal to buy Volvo's passenger car division for £3.9 billion.

Volvo, which is keeping its commercial vehicle activities, also revealed that it will close its only UK factory — a truck assembly plant in Irvine, Ayrshire — in July 2000 with the loss of 250 jobs. The Swedish group cut 250 other jobs at Irvine before Christmas, when it withdrew bus assembly work.

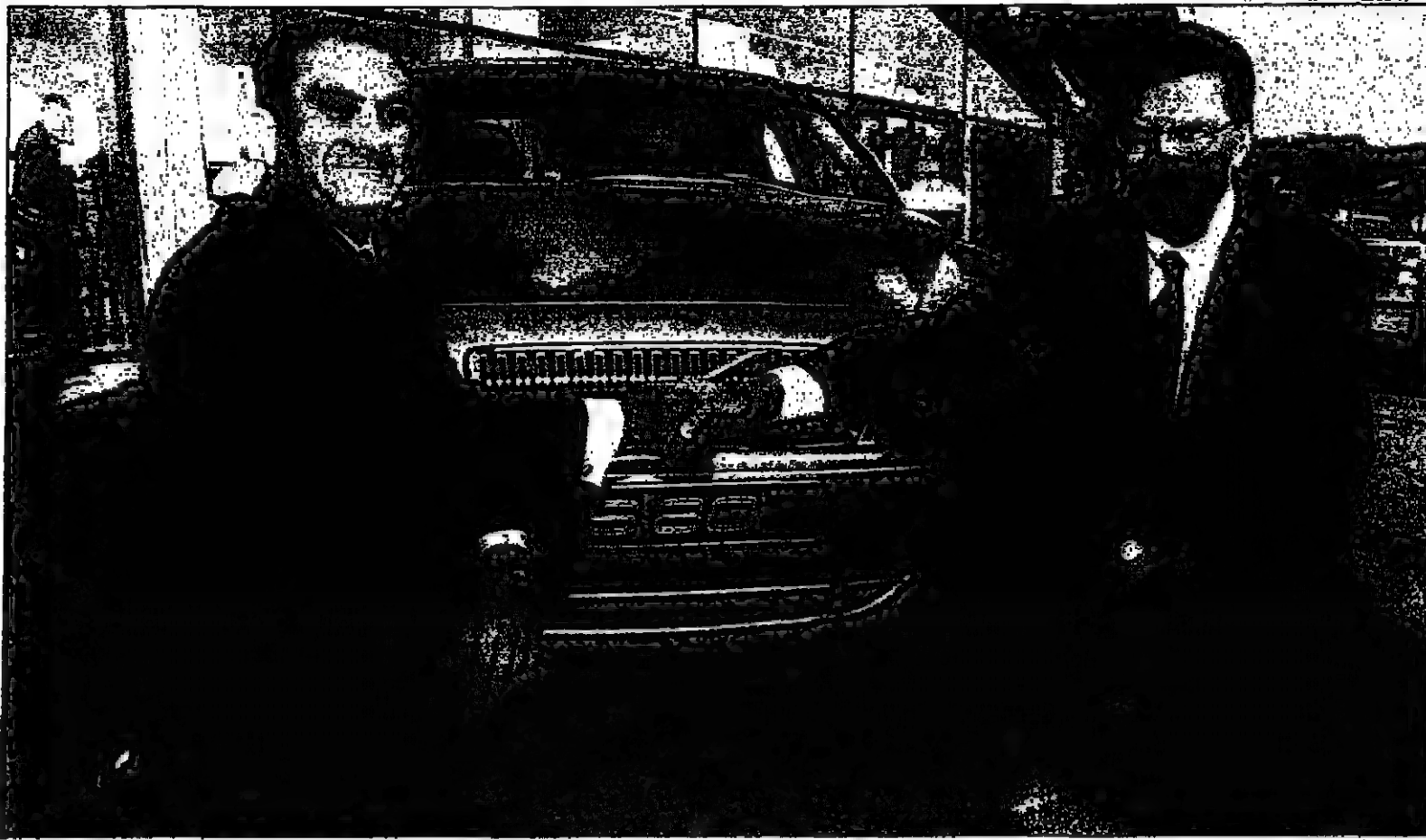
Ford's foray across the Atlantic is the latest outbreak of merger mania in the global car industry, which is hurting from too much manufacturing capacity and the high cost of developing new vehicles. It follows the purchase of Chrysler by Daimler-Benz last year.

Volvo said its car business, which had sales of about £7.6 billion last year, needed economies of scale. The sale focuses Volvo on buses and trucks, construction equipment, engines and aerospace. It is expected to launch a bid for Scania, its rival truckmaker in Sweden.

Volvo bought 13 per cent earlier this month, a move Scania likened to a hostile bid. Shares in Henlys, the UK bus and coachmaker, rose from 428p to 472p yesterday amid speculation that Volvo would seek to increase its stake. Volvo bought 10 per cent last year.

Fiat admitted yesterday that it had wanted to buy all of Volvo, not just the passenger car division. Volkswagen was also thought to want the car operation but a source close to the deal dismissed speculation that General Motors had been interested.

Ford, the second-biggest car group in the world after Toyota, sold about 6.8 million vehicles last year. Volvo sold about 400,000. Ford said its success with Jaguar, the UK luxury carmaker that it revived and expanded, showed that it can run



Jac Nasser, left, yesterday sealed the purchase of Volvo's passenger car division with Leif Johansson, the Swedish group's chief executive.

a foreign subsidiary at arm's length without blurring its identity, tradition and appeal.

The Volvo name will be used by both Ford and the rump Volvo. A joint company has been set up to own the brand and license it to both.

Ford said the deal would enhance earnings in the first year. It said Volvo had a following among female and young buyers who cannot afford its existing luxury cars, Jaguar and Lincoln.

Ford may distribute Volvos alongside its own cars and is likely to broaden the product range. New Volvos may eventually be developed jointly

with other Fords, using common "platforms" to save money. From 200,000 last year, Ford wants to sell 700,000 luxury cars in 2000, including Volvos, and then increase this to a million in the new millennium. It said it was too early to say how the deal would affect UK plants but there appear to be no great fears for job losses. Volvo's car operation employs 190 in the UK. Up to 5,000 work in independent dealerships selling Volvos.

The future of Volvo's production joint venture with Mitsubishi in The Netherlands is in danger. Jac Nasser, Ford chief executive, said it would continue

for now. The Ford deal is likely to be put to Volvo shareholders in March for approval.

The Volvo trucks work lost from Irvine will be transferred to underused plants in Belgium and Sweden. The timing of the closure announcement angered union officials, who said that they had been asked to prepare a business plan to save the plant, which they were due to discuss with Lord Macdonald of Tradeston, the Scottish Industry Minister, yesterday afternoon. The AEEU said a further 500-1,000 jobs were indirectly threatened by the closure.

Driving seat, page 33

TRW bid could see fresh offer for Lucas

By PAUL DURMAN

FEDERAL-MOGUL, the US car components group, is considering mounting a counter-bid to TRW's £4 billion takeover offer for LucasVarity, the UK-based manufacturer of braking and fuel injection systems.

TRW, a leading American producer of steering and suspension systems, ended days of speculation with a cash offer worth 28p a share that was recommended by LucasVarity's board.

However, some analysts believe TRW has failed to land a knockout blow, and that Federal-Mogul's interest could drive the bidding as high as 320p a share. LucasVarity's shares ended 7p higher at 290p.

Federal-Mogul, which has tabled a conditional 280p offer, demanded that it should have access to any information that LucasVarity has provided to TRW. The Takeover Panel will force LucasVarity to comply with this demand.

The TRW deal would allow Victor Rice, LucasVarity's chief executive, to take over as head of the enlarged group's automotive operations. It is believed Dick Snell, Federal-Mogul's chairman and chief executive, sees no role for Mr Rice if his bid should succeed.

LucasVarity has agreed to pay TRW £30 million if its offer fails. Joe Gorman, TRW's chairman and chief executive, hopes to wring £200 million (£121 million) of savings from the deal by the end of 2001, suggesting the need for substantial job losses among LucasVarity's 51,000 employees.

TRW, smaller than LucasVarity by market value, believes the deal would produce an immediate enhancement to its earnings — even before any synergies. The deal, the largest cash acquisition in the auto component industry, would create a group with sales of £11.5 billion.

Commentary, page 31

BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100 5872.5 (-3.9)
Vista 2.75%
FTSE All Share 2681.14 (+7.3)
Nikkei 14242.32 (-107.74)

New York 8281.07 (+80.84)
Dow Jones 1281.84 (+18.47)
S&P Composite

Federal Funds 4.75% (+0.25)
Long bond 102.00 (+0.10)
Yield 5.125% (+0.10%)

3-month interbank 5.75% (+0.25)
Libor long 120.03 (+0.11)
Libor short 120.03 (+0.11)

New York 1.6478 (+1.8487)
London 1.6478 (+1.8487)
Paris 1.6478 (+1.8487)
Tokyo 1.6478 (+1.8487)

London 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Paris 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Tokyo 1.1397 (+1.1445)

London 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Paris 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Tokyo 1.1397 (+1.1445)

London 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Paris 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Tokyo 1.1397 (+1.1445)

London 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Paris 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Tokyo 1.1397 (+1.1445)

London 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Paris 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Tokyo 1.1397 (+1.1445)

London 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Paris 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Tokyo 1.1397 (+1.1445)

London 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Paris 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Tokyo 1.1397 (+1.1445)

London 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Paris 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Tokyo 1.1397 (+1.1445)

London 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Paris 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Tokyo 1.1397 (+1.1445)

London 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Paris 1.1397 (+1.1445)
Tokyo 1.1397 (+1.1445)

Experts see rates going under 4%

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INTEREST RATES are set to fall to their lowest levels for nearly half a century as the British economy enjoys a "mild" slowdown, a leading economic think-tank predicted yesterday.

City hopes that the economy will avoid a major recession were also boosted by the latest bank lending data which showed mortgage and credit card borrowing remains firm.

The National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR) forecasts in its latest *Economic Review* that interest rates will fall to below 4 per cent by early 2001, the lowest level since 1955, as inflationary pressures ease and the Government prepares for EMU entry. The economy will avoid an

"outright recession" with growth totalling 1 per cent this year and rebounding to 2.5 per cent in 2000. However, the Chancellor will need to maintain budget discipline to ensure interest rates fall towards European levels.

Figures published yesterday by the British Bankers' Association showed a small rise in seasonally adjusted net mortgage lending in December to £1.21 billion. Credit card borrowing also rose modestly to £4.91 billion, some 4 per cent higher than in December 1997.

www.bba.org.uk
www.niesr.ac.uk

Yahoo! buys rival in \$3.5bn move

INTERNET mania reached new heights yesterday when Yahoo! agreed to the \$3.56 billion (£2.2 billion) takeover of GeoCities (Oliver August writes).

GeoCities, which helps Internet users to build their own Web pages, floated last autumn at \$9 a share. On the first day of trading its shares shot up to \$90 before falling back to \$50. Yahoo!'s offer valued them at \$113. Retail investors stand to make a return of 1,200 per cent.

But the biggest winner — apart from the recently graduated company founders — is a venture capital fund, CMGI, owns a 28 per cent stake, which it bought at the bargain price of 67 cents a share. The fund made a \$1 billion profit on its \$5 million investment.

Internet purchase page 30

Greenspan hits at Internet 'lottery'

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

ALAN GREENSPAN, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, yesterday warned investors that the "hype" surrounding Internet companies had introduced a "lottery premium" into their stock market valuations.

However, Mr Greenspan told the Senate Budget Committee that while the "vast majority are sure to fail", some small companies would succeed and take advantage of the "huge" potential market.

The Fed Chairman added that, despite the "hype and craziness", the frenzy actually showed the Wall Street market working in an effective manner because investors are prepared to shift capital into fresh opportunities before "earnings actually materialise".

Mr Greenspan also repeated his warning that the US economy cannot remain "an oasis of prosperity, if the rest of the world is in serious trouble".

The currency markets, however, ignored his comments, sending the dollar to a record high against the euro. Traders reacted to a string of strong US economic data to conclude that the US economy is in far better health than the European economy and that the European Central Bank will soon cut interest rates.

The euro slipped below \$1.14 for the first time to trade at \$1.137. The pound also tracked the dollar higher to reach its own record high with the euro slipping from 69.63p to 69.29p.

Whitbread nursery group up for sale

By DOMINIC WALSH

WHITBREAD'S David Lloyd Leisure arm is seeking a buyer for its Gatehouse Nursery chain, which ran into controversy last summer amid allegations of mistreatment of youngsters at its Enfield unit.

Gatehouse, which formed part of the David Lloyd Leisure group, is one of the UK's biggest operators of private nurseries with 40 sites. Around half are located at David Lloyd Leisure clubs.

Steve Philpott, managing director of David Lloyd Leisure, said: "It is not part of our core business and, following a review, we have decided to sell it. The private nursery market has good prospects but is highly specialised."

Industry sources believe the court's decision to close the Enfield unit last year was a big factor in Whitbread's decision to seek an exit. "It's not what Whitbread are best at and the Enfield problems show the dangers inherent in the business," said one. "It's simply not worth the hassle."

The Enfield unit, which is at a David Lloyd club, has now reopened under the management of Busy Bees, a privately-owned rival and considered one of the likeliest buyers of the Gatehouse business. Whitbread declined to reveal its asking price, although experts believe the 20 stand-alone nurseries could be worth £10 million.

GRE board urged to accept a suitor

By JASON NISSE

LEADING shareholders in Guardian Royal Exchange were yesterday urging the board of the insurer to accept one of the bids put on the table by Royal & Sun Alliance, Eureka and AXA rather than vote to remain independent.

The GRE board meets today, and is being urged by John Robins, its chief executive, to reject the offers made in favour of a management-led option.

Mr Robins believes this proposal could see GRE valued at 420p a share — or £3.7 billion. The highest bid made in the auction is 390p a share from RSA with Eureka offering 385p and AXA bidding 380p.

However, the RSA offer has met with

opposition from its own shareholders and there is concern about whether Eureka, which is a consortium of six mutual insurers, can raise the finance.

Yesterday a number of institutional investors told *The Times* that they would be unhappy with the board of GRE if it refused the offer on the table. "It is an unacceptable option to follow the management route," said Gerard Griffin of ING Barings Asset Management.

Another leading investor, who did not want to be named, said: "The directors have to know their duty and their duty is to obtain the best price."

Commentary page 31

Do you have an investment portfolio of £75,000 or more that is looking for some old fashioned care and attention?

Burrage & Co. prides itself on giving a level of personal service that is so often difficult to find. At the same time clients benefit from the advantages of sophisticated information technology available to professional investment managers.

No two clients' requirements are identical, and this is reflected in the way the company places emphasis on the need to manage portfolios in a way that is designed to meet individuals' requirements and objectives.

If you would like to find out more about the discretionary fund management services provided by Burrage & Co., or would like to arrange a meeting for an exploratory discussion, please contact Ken Burrage or Susan Bentley.

BURRAGE
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

117 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 5AL

Tel: 0171 480 7216 Fax: 0171 702 3020 e-mail: ken.burrage@kibn.co.uk
BURRAGE & CO. LIMITED IS PART OF THE KIBN GROUP AND IS REGULATED BY IMRO

مركز الاموال

P&D — down but not out

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

If anyone had been wondering why the chips at Phillips & Drew were becoming a touch impatient over some of their investments, the explanation became glaringly clear yesterday. Of the 67 pooled pension funds measured by CAPS, P&D's ranked 67th in the last quarter.

If Tony Dye and his team had put their money into the FTSE 100 at the start of the year and gone on holiday, they would have come back to find it worth almost 15 per cent more. Sadly, they chose instead to hunt for a pie, and delivered a return of just 9.4 per cent.

Poor Mr Dye has at least been consistent in his view that equity markets are horribly overvalued, although the markets themselves have consistently failed to concur. But many of P&D's chosen stocks have done their best to cool down the indices: a travesty through its portfolio reveals a raft of underperforming companies. While P&D may have divined hidden value in these stocks, too often it has remained hidden. Now, from the bottom of the performance league, it is not surprising that the firm has decided on a more aggressive stance and if management fail to deliver the value, then P&D will.

Sears and Mirror Group have been very public examples of this

pro-active stance, with P&D taking on a pivotal role in determining the future of the company. The fund manager has tried of waiting for these companies to deliver growth: it is now keen to engineer a quick, clean and premium price exit.

Quite what it will do with the resulting cash must be a matter of some concern to the fund manager. Mr Dye's fears for equity markets have led P&D to keep almost 18 per cent of its funds in cash, against the average of just 7.2 per cent. He will have to find something more creative than that to do with the proceeds, if he succeeds in generating takeovers of more of his sickly stocks.

Chemical company Albright & Wilson may be the next to go and Evans Halshaw and Ushers of Trowbridge are already on their way. At Tay Homes, the management is having to fend off an attack from the Sunley family, which has the fingerprints of P&D all over it. Enterprise Oil, another P&D stock, is in talks with Lasso, which could result in merger terms being

agreed as early as next week. Other fund managers cottoned on to the idea of shareholder activism long before P&D. Hermes has a special unit dedicated to stirring up under-performers and Prudential often has a stern word with lax managers. But P&D is in real fighting mood. The poor performers who helped to take it to the bottom of the league table will now pay the price.

Rock and a hard place for Chandler

Sir Colin Chandler may find himself an underserving victim of the P&D lightning. He only took up the post of chairman of Guardian Royal Exchange four weeks ago, yet this afternoon, at GRE's board meeting, he faces a vote that could lose

him his new job. Faced with a bid approach from AXA last autumn, the insurer's board took the wise decision to see if anyone else was interested in buying the company. Now, having discovered that at least three bidders — AXA, Royal & Sun Alliance and the Eureka consortium — are willing to pay anything up to £3.5 billion, Sir Colin and co should do the decent thing and accept one of them. Which one is the only matter for discussion. Is Eureka's 38.5p a share in cash a better bet than RSA's 39p in cash and shares? Can AXA be squeezed for a little extra at the last minute? These are the only questions.

Alas, there is a complicating factor. John Robins, GRE's current chief executive, and Peter Owen, the PPP boss who fancies the job, reckon that if the board rejects all these bids, they can sell

off the bits in a way that will deliver extra value for the shareholders. A figure of £20p a share has been mentioned.

The problem Sir Colin faces is that most investors, including P&D, do not want this solution. The insurance market is not a happy place at the moment. Margins are under pressure. There is global consolidation among the big players and specialist operators, like Direct Line, are under-cutting aggressively in lucrative niches. GRE is not a large operator and its disastrous market performance — which saw its shares halve in value in the months before AXA's approach — indicate that it will find life tough if it stays independent.

The investors think that the executive management's suggested route is too much of a risk. Why gamble on an extra 30p a share

when the downside risk is more than 100p a share? As representatives of the interests of investors, GRE's non-executives have to vote for a sale. Sir Colin Chandler may feel like a turkey voting for Christmas, but the alternative could cast him as the David Montgomery of GRE.

Euro centres battle for their futures

You have to hand it to the French. They may not be any good at attracting business to their financial markets, but when it comes to plotting and diplomacy in the rush to Europe-wide and global exchanges, they are second to none. Burex, the German-Swiss derivatives exchange that overtook Liffe with its first generation screen-trading system, has just suffered a big setback to global ambition. Rebel pit traders at the Chicago Board of Trade have voted down a deal to tie the two inextricably together via a costly new system. Liffe itself is eschewing

mega-deals while it sorts out its own cost base. That makes the Euro Globex network stitched together by Paris and centred on France's Maf and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange suddenly look very smart.

Paris was outraged when the London Stock Exchange agreed an almost humiliating deal with Frankfurt to build an EU-wide blue-chip exchange, especially when Madrid joined in. The bourse has finally agreed a rival link with Zürich and is doubtless courting Milan to gather more ammunition. Unfortunately for the great diplomats, the whole lot could end up being run by a man and his dog on the Internet.

Victory Rice

THOSE who know Victor Rice never believed that the dissent of LucasVarity shareholders would stand in his way for long. Now, with a £4 billion offer from TRW, he is set to gain his wish of moving the company to the United States and the likelihood is that his salary package, as vice-chairman of a US business, will far outstrip the rather generous one he already enjoys. Federal Mogul would not have to do very much to win over LucasVarity shareholders. Having no vacancy for Mr Rice would help.

Premier Farnell plans £30m reinvestment

By PAUL DURMAN

PREMIER FARNELL, the electronic components distributor, is to invest £30 million a year over the next three years in an attempt to reinvigorate its business.

The "investment" for growth plan is the outcome of the strategic review conducted by John Hirst, the former ICI executive who took over as the group's chief executive last July. It prompted a 29p, or 18 per cent, rise in Premier Farnell's share price to 191p.

Investors in Premier Farnell have lost more than two thirds of the value of their investment since the company was created

by a controversial Anglo-American merger three years ago. However, the main catalogue distributor business has continued to make profits of about 20 per cent of sales.

Mr Hirst said: "We are reinvesting some of our margin back in the business."

The company will invest about £25 million in new computer systems to create shared customer and product databases, to allow more flexible catalogue production and more efficient purchasing. But it is also having to write off £15 million, or about half the money it spent on systems in the last

couple of years. This is because Premier Farnell allowed different parts of the group to install different and incompatible systems. Mr Hirst said: "I'm not saying it's been entirely wasted. We had to get the systems in to get year 2000 compliance. But they will have a shorter working life than they would otherwise have."

Mr Hirst plans to spend £10 million a year on marketing and developing an electronic commerce capability. Until Mr Hirst's recent appointments of Michael Bell and Angela Walker, the company lacked anyone with group re-

sponsibility for information technology and marketing. A priority is to restore growth at Newark Electronics, the US catalogue distributor that saw a 7 per cent fall in sales in the first half because of a badly handled attempt to reduce price discounting.

Mr Hirst said Newark's sales had not fallen further over the last four months. The group said overall trading was in line with expectations. Premier Farnell is expected to make pre-tax profits of about £10 million in the year just ending.

Times, page 32

Laroche aiming for French float

DOMAINE LAROCHE, one of France's most prestigious Chablis producers, yesterday signalled its intention to float on the French stock market this spring (Dominic Walsh writes).

The company, which has produced

cent of production in the Northern Burgundy region. It also has a production site in the Langue-doc region, Domaine La Chevallerie, which was founded three years ago to compete with New World wines. Michel Laroche, chairman, said a listing on the Paris Bourse's Second Marché

would "enable us to consolidate our position as a key player in the wine industry". He hinted that it might be used as the springboard to acquire other vineyards. In the year to March 1999, it is expected to post sales of Fr170 million (£18 million) and net profits of Fr42.5 million.

C&G Investment Rates

Effective from 29 January 1999

NEW						NEW					
Amount Invested	Interest Paid	GROSS* AER's**	NET's	GROSS* AER's**	NET's	Amount Invested	Interest Paid	GROSS* AER's**	NET's	GROSS* AER's**	NET's
\$25,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70	\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.10	6.10	4.88	5.80
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60	\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.75	5.75	4.60	5.45
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50	\$100,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.65	5.65	4.52	5.35
\$25,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50	\$100,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.50	5.50	4.40	5.20
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45	\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.94	6.10	4.75	5.65
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37	\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.80	5.75	4.48	5.32
						\$100,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.51	5.65	4.41	5.22
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80	4.52	5.37						
\$1,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.75						
\$5,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	6.00	4.67	5.60						
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.70						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Annually	5.90	5.90	4.72	5.60						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.80	5.80	4.64	5.50						
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.84	5.80	4.67	5.50						
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Monthly	5.75	5.80	4.60	5.45						
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.65	5.80								

A good case for cancelling the Budget

Alastair Ross Goobey, the chief executive of Hermes Pensions Management who is writing elsewhere on this page, is fond of explaining how, as a special adviser to Nigel Lawson, he offered some good advice ahead of the 1987 Budget. Stand up, take a sip of your drink and sit down again, Mr R. As Goobey recommended, leave the economy to take care of itself for a year.

Of course, Mr Lawson (now Lord Lawson of Blaby) ignored these words, embarking instead on a tax-cutting spree with disastrous consequences for the medium-term health of the economy and public finances.

As 1999 Budget day approaches, Gordon Brown could do worse than to heed the same advice. The economy is at one of those delicate moments, where even the most confident economist is

uncertain about the immediate outlook. Growth is slowing, but how far and how fast is anyone's guess. Launching significant new initiatives against this background could have unforeseen and counter-productive consequences as the Lawson tax cuts.

Cancelling the Budget would also be just about the best help that the Government could provide for business. Companies already have plenty to contend with. There are euro and millennium bug contingency plans to prepare. The Government's raft of new workplace legislation needs to be absorbed. Above all, businesses face the tricky task of developing their own response to the downturn. The last thing needed at this juncture is a crop of well-intentioned but complex changes to the tax system.

Sadly, Mr Brown is not going to get up and do nothing.

No politician can resist a grand set-piece, least of all one as hyperactive as the Chancellor. Inaction is invariably treated as weakness by friends, complacency by foes. Beret of Charlie Whelan, his Svengali-like spokesman, Mr Brown will want to show he can still pack a political punch. He is also desperate to give his party, still mired in the post-Mandelson gloom, something to cheer at last.

However, as David Walton, the Goldman Sachs economist, charted earlier this week, the Chancellor has limited room for manoeuvre. Goldman is slightly more pessimistic than the Chancellor about the immediate outlook for the economy, but by no means the most bearish of the City economists. On its calculations, the Chancellor will meet his self-imposed borrowing guidelines, but only just. There is no case for a "giveaway" Budget, which would risk a considerable deterioration in the health of the public finances. At the same time, there is no need for emergency tightening measures, which risk exaggerating the downturn as well as causing political fallout.

So what will Mr Brown do? The obvious temptation will be finally to unveil the new 10p

tax rate, but he will have to find tax rises elsewhere to fund the new band. The last remnant of mortgage interest tax relief is the obvious target, but the Prime Minister may well veto the abolition of this vestige of middle class privilege.

The alternative is to replace the existing 20p tax band with the new 10p rate. This has the virtue of maintaining simplicity but, as the Institute of Fiscal Studies calculates, the Chancellor would be able to apply the new rate to only the first £880 of taxable income if fiscal neutrality is to be maintained. Hardly the kind of reform to set the country alight.

Productivity measures will also loom large. Yet it is far from clear exactly where Britain's productivity problems reside. The debate over the past year has, if anything, confused matters, and for every expert who agrees with the Chancellor that the UK lags America,

there is one ready to argue that the country's performance is not nearly as poor as imagined. There is a strong argument that the problem can only be resolved by non-budgetary measures such as competition, product regulation and planning law reforms.

The Chancellor is inclined to tamper yet again with R&D tax credits and capital allowances in the hope of improving investment performance. The IFS, however, argues that these reforms will benefit no one except the accountancy industry.

No matter how grandly such reform is dressed up on Budget day, it is unlikely to amount to anything more than tinkering at the edges. But what the country really needs at this moment, is a new Charlie Whelan to explain how the Chancellor cancelled this year's Budget, not through indecision but "masterly inactivity".

Institutional investors must play part in wealth creation

Shareholder activism was back in the news when David Montgomery was ousted as chief executive of Mirror Group this week. ALASTAIR ROSS GOOBEY runs one of the fund managers behind the move. He explains why investors must play a more active part in the companies that they own.

The subject of corporate governance is moving on again. I hope we may be approaching a time where investors may be left to be assisting in wealth creation, rather than merely policing their agents. I believe there is a near-universal acceptance that it is in the power of the investing institutions to fill such a role; the question is how, and in what areas?

Just over five years ago, Sir Martin Jacobson (who was then chairman and is now chairman of Prudential) and I decided that we should write to the chairmen of the FTSE 100 constituent companies about long rolling contracts for executives. These seemed to us to be the instruments through which failing executives were given large payments to leave the companies they had already harmed.

In 1994, according to research by HayGroup into the top 500 companies, 58 per cent of chief executives had such contracts, and 47 per cent of other executive directors. The 1998 figures suggest that only 2 per cent of chief executives now have these contracts, and there are no other executive directors with them. The three-year contract is no more. Indeed, the Greenbury committee came out in favour of one-year contracts, although there is a fairly even split between one and two years in the universe researched by HayGroup.

Although, of course, I am drawing attention to these results with some personal satisfaction, my point is more general. If one institution, owning between 1 and 2 per cent of the UK equity market, acting on its own initiative, can achieve this change, what may we all achieve if we work together?

In 1993 there were several of



Monty's last stand: pressure from institutional investors, headed by Phillips & Drew, led to the resignation of David Montgomery

our peers who thought ours was a futile gesture. Even if they believed in the purpose, they could see no point in upsetting their clients in pursuit of an unattainable goal. Very few institutions joined, privately or publicly, in pushing for changes in contracts. Yet, because they were indefensible, and because there was enough adverse comment from shareholders to make the subject awkward, the worm turned.

The Government sees the institutional fund managers, or their clients, as the drivers of change in UK industry. They want us all to vote our shares, and to act responsibly as representatives of the ultimate owners. While I have no quarrel with this as a starting point, I am beginning to worry about the specific instruction that the Government seems to be tempted to give us as to how to vote or act, as they see it, responsibly.

Let me give two examples. John Denham, the now ex-Pensions Minister, has, in his recently published consultation document, drafted a regulation for the inclusion of a policy on ethics in a pension fund's statutory statement of investment principles. The draft is couched in general terms: "The statement must cover whether the trustees take into account any considerations other than financial considerations, and, if so, what these are and how investment decisions are affected."

The first part should present little difficulty to most scheme trustees. All trustees must be in favour of the company in which they invest being run in their long-term interests, which short-term unethical behaviour will undermine.

If, however, trustees are being invited to take positions on arms manufacturers, tobacco companies or the other political pariahs, we may be forced

into the absurd position of one ethical investor many years ago. When asked why it had only half its normal-sized investment in ICL, the response was "we are not investing in the explosives division".

It is well nigh impossible to draw a precise line between the ethical and the politically correct. Our view is that the next natural development of responsible stewardship is to push more actively for change in underperforming companies. Far too often, the institutions intervene when vast amounts of shareholder value have already been poured away. Our focus funds in the UK and US, and our alliance with CalPERS are intended to give more force to that initiative. After all, if not the investing institutions, who?

The second example of government exhortation is the drive to persuade investors to pour money into early stage and development capital in the UK. The fact is that the track

record of such investment in the past ten years is very poor.

The returns achieved have, according to the British Venture Capital Association's (BVCA) own statements, been less than conventional UK or overseas equities, or even bonds. The BVCA brings no credit to itself by quoting overall figures for private equity returns that are dominated by MBO funds, where financial leverage and a bull market in equities has convinced the managers of their own genius. These numbers have nothing at all to do with high-tech start-ups. The private equity fund managers are, naturally, supporting the perceived need; they will see the value of their own businesses escalate rapidly if they capture some of these investment flows.

It is not that I think early-stage and development capital investment is anathema to our clients. We have demonstrated many times that we are prepared to back specific technol-

ogy in companies we understand, but most of these developments have taken place within relatively mature companies with at least a notional quote. At the cutting edge of technology, in a single project company, we are unable to do effective due diligence into the technology; we do not have those specific skills, and nor do most institutional investors. Even most of the private equity fund managers claim that their great contribution is to add proper financial and management skills to a wonderful technology.

In my experience, a financial investor gains much more comfort from investing alongside a company that has direct knowledge of the relevant technology. The Wellcome Trust is the largest funding institution for medical research in the UK; would we be more likely to invest in a biotech investment as a partner with Wellcome than either by ourselves or via a private equity specialist? Absolutely.

It is the vehicle through which we make such investments that will determine our strategy in this area, not the jawboning of government. As fiduciaries, we have a responsibility to invest wisely for our clients. We cannot respond eagerly to promoters who effectively ask us to "open our wallets and say after me 'help yourself'".

Partnerships with companies that want to take an exciting, but high-risk, new technology out of their direct profit and loss account investing together with informed trade investors, investing with fund managers whose fee structure does not insulate them from the pain of failure, instead of, as now, exposing them only to the pleasure of success; these are what we will seek.

It is a little rich for a Government that has taken more than £100 million a year from our clients alone by removing tax credits, to ask us to tie up more of their money for longer periods at higher risk. If we had the cashflow that has been taken from us, we would be in a much better position to help.

Alastair Ross Goobey is chief executive of Hermes Pensions Management.

William Ford aims to show he's in the driving seat

Oliver August reports on the car group's deal to buy Volvo and the background to the purchase

Many chairmen have told a rapid audience at annual meetings that their company is what they hold dearest in all the world. But when William Ford Jr says so, he actually sounds genuine.

The chairman of The Ford Motor Company, which yesterday bought Volvo's car division, has jockeyed all his life to reach the top post. At the age of 41, the great-grandson of Henry Ford, the group's founder, finally assumed the mantle of power at the family carmaking firm last year.

The Volvo deal is his first big move. William Ford got his chance when Alex Trotman, the British-born executive chairman, retired. Mr Trotman, 65, had been expected to stay a further year but said he chose to go early as the revamping of Ford had proceeded ahead of schedule.

This amounted to a huge victory for William Ford. He had been head of the company finance committee and played a leading role in the turnaround. However, as chairman he has to share power with Jac Nasser, the wily Australian who was made chief executive. The Volvo deal is as much his as William Ford's.

The new division of power at the car group reflects the continued influence of the Ford family that holds 40 per cent of the voting shares. The family has long been the royalty of Detroit, and the subject of intense local interest.

William Ford was groomed as a successor at the behest of the family. He is the first family member to lead the company since Henry Ford II bowed out in 1980 after 35 years at the wheel. Henry Ford I was in charge for only ten years from 1908 until 1918.

Mr Trotman said: "Over these past several months, the board has discussed succession following my retirement and has concluded that the roles of the chairman and of the chief executive officer should be separated. Jac is already running the largest part of the company and, with Bill as chairman of the board, we have tremendous strength and continuity as we move forward." William Ford is described as a serious, soft-spoken executive who helped to create a school for gifted children near Ford headquarters.

This is in marked contrast to more temperamental relatives who have had his job. Unlike his great-grandfather, he is unlikely ever to mutter: "You can have your car any colour you like as long as it's black."

The new chairman has held a variety of jobs at the company, including managing director of Ford Switzerland, vice-president of the commercial truck centre and head of the climate control division. He divides his spare time between reading about the American Civil War and American football.

His father, William Ford Sr, owns the Detroit Lions team. He has made his son vice chairman — a move that will endear him to the tens of thousands of car workers employed at Ford. But it wasn't always clear that William Ford would be chosen by family elders to run the car business.

He had an ambitious rival in Edsel Ford Jr, another grandson of Henry Ford. The 49-year-old is also the son of Henry Ford II, who rebuilt the company after the Second World War. But early last year Edsel Ford decided to step down from his post as president of Ford's car lending division and said he would not take another executive position. Since 1991 he had been the president of the Ford Motor Credit Company, which is the world's largest provider of car loans and leases and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ford Motor. While Ford Credit thrived during the early years of Mr Ford's management, it ran into problems in the past two years.

But given the 40 per cent voting stake of the family, it is unlikely that he was forced out. The real reason for his departure is believed to be his realisation that William Ford had gained a comfortable lead in the race to the top.

Six months later Alex Trotman resigned and set the reshuffle in motion. At the time, William Ford said: "I want to serve this company to the very best of my ability. The Ford Motor Company is my heritage, and has always been part of my life." The standing ovation at the next annual meeting is guaranteed.



William Ford is keenly aware of the family heritage

Smoke screen

HERE is the paradox: you are an insurance firm that must, for commercial reasons, charge smokers more for life insurance because the statistics show that cigarettes shorten their lives. But you are owned by a company that makes fags and insists, against all the evidence, that smoking is a harmless pleasure.

I had wondered how the former insurance arm of BAT Industries, our biggest maker of coffin nails, squared this particular circle. Now Phil Hodg-

kinson, chief executive at Allied Dunbar has let me in on the following jocular explanation.

Cigarettes do not harm one's health, so the spin goes. But the statistics show that smokers tend to die earlier of other causes — anything from car accidents to being murdered. If so, they must be charged higher insurance premiums.

Ingenuous, is it not? And also true — smokers are statistically more likely to die early of other causes than non-smokers.

The reason, in case you had not guessed, is that they tend to come from lower down the social scale and/or to be on low incomes. Such people are, statistically, more likely to succumb to various causes of death than those further up the social ladder. Amazing what you can prove with statistics.

MOST brutal mugging of the English language this week is by Flavus, the French advertising sales agency, with the following: "The international realignment of several Procter & Gamble brands handled until now by EURO RSCG Worldwide affects essentially those accounts handled on the North American market by EURO RSCG Tatham but in no way does it affect accounts held by Jor-

dan McGrath Case & Partners EURO RSCG nor Lally McFarland & Pantello EURO RSCG."

They really do talk like this, these marketing idiots. Does anyone have the faintest idea what they are trying to say?

Swiss role

ADAIR TURNER's powers of persuasion were stretched beyond breaking point on the tarmac at Heathrow Airport yesterday. The CBI Director-General was one of a party heading off to Zurich and thence to the Davos World Economic Forum when news came through that the airport there had been closed.

Unfortunately the aircraft was owned by Swissair, a carrier not not-

ed for its charm and kindness towards paying customers, so the crew refused to let passengers off the flight. After a distressing two-hour wait Turner was accorded to go forward to try to persuade them to let everyone return to the terminal. He did his best, and reported back: "I think the negotiations are coming to a conclusion."

To which the humourless stewardess responded: "Is that an example of your British sarcasm?"

AS YOU will have noticed, Lucocade has been given the product makeover with the help of sportsmen such as Daley Thompson and Alan Shearer. Now this winter's flu has meant a 25 per cent jump in sales.

Peter Harding at SmithKline Beecham admits this is not quite what the marketing geniuses had in mind. "We have been repositioning Lucocade from primarily a convalescence drink to primarily an energy drink," he babbles. "But if we sell more product, we're not disappointed."

French leave

GREAT puzzlement in Paris about a flying visit by David Komansky, the Master of the Universe who is chairman and chief executive of Merrill Lynch. Komansky requested an interview with Jacques Chirac, French President and a man not terribly interested in the minutiae of international finance, everyone assumes.

The meeting was slated for half an hour and went on for twice that. Komansky left hunched-faced and refused to say a thing. The Elysee put out some hogwash about how they discussed the regulation of world financial markets which no one could make much sense of.

But my man in Paris points out that Chirac is best friends with Boris Yeltsin, at least when the Russian premier can remember who anyone is. His support would be essential for EU backing for any bailout being put together by Wall Street. We shall see.

MARTIN WALLER
city diary@the-times.co.uk



David Komansky's brief Paris trip left most observers in the dark



"Miss Jones, ask the chairman to bring me through a coffee"

LOOKING FOR A SCHOOL?

John Catt Educational Ltd publish other guides covering British Independent Schools together with helpful advice and editorials for parents seeking preparatory, secondary or further education for their children

- Which School for A Levels and Education after Sixteen
- Which School for Special Needs
- Boarding Schools & Colleges
- International Schools
- Preparatory Schools
- Which London School?
- and others
- Which School Regional Guides

John Catt Educational Limited
One Glenview, Staines, Middlesex TW20 2EX
Tel: 01892 515151
Fax: 01892 515152
E-mail: info@johncatt.co.uk
Web: www.johncatt.co.uk

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Firm	1998		Price-earnings ratio	Payout ratio
	High	Low Company		
39.2	280	141	Modest H/Win	258
	52%	22	DE Growth	37
	30%	16	Progeny	250
35.7	397%	197	Intercomp	204
	399%	141	Infocore	380
19.0	152	65	Intercomp	85
25.5	250	147	Infocore Press	232
	65%	38	Lexus	32
	47%	210	Modest	32
	38%	54	Modest	172

74.6	337	2089	Quincy	256	- 14	2
	157	209	Quincy			
	1420	725	Quincy	1360	+ 18	1
30.3	567	247	Quincy			1
	1780	667	Quincy	1887		1
56.0	1157	517	Quincy	577		9
68.3	730	4157	Quincy	6587	+ 137	3
48.2	911	412	Quincy	6687	+ 227	1
59.6	125	8	Quincy	145	+ 4	1
26.6	830	6047	Quincy	700		1
43.3	577	275	Quincy	578	+ 35	2
27.4	550	3077	Quincy	303		4
21.7	257	10	Quincy	157		1
27.7	777	37	Quincy	657		1
38.6	1457	657	Quincy	157		1

3533	1485	Ang Am	1737	9	4
3538	1501	Ang Am Gold	2412	18	4
3540	1506	Ang Am Gold	265	1	4
3543	2046	Ang Am Put	2452	53	6
3544	11	Anglo Pac	154	1	4
3545	112	Anglo Int	13	1	4
3546	358	Arctank	314	9	4
3547	21	Arctank	22	3	4
3548	112	Arctank	27	1	4
3549	504	Bowditch	114	1	4
3550	25	Brace	27	1	4
3551	214	Bowditch	7	1	4
3552	130	Can Pacific	149	4	4
3553	50	Can Interlink	22	1	4
3554	718	De Beers	852	1	4

15.3	1864	27	Panasonic	159	1	1
15.1	1214	27	Panasonic Int'l	456		
29.9	896	535	Has Tels	1314	3	4
13.1	571	574	Has Tels Ltd	7524	13	4
7.0	2214	1234	SI Electric	1554		12
14.0	2304	133	Sony Electric	1254	1	1
3.7	1304	504	Sony Pacific	804	1	4
6.3	2284	1504	SHARP	1504	2	4
10.6	27	4	Whitaker Co 2	7		
8.8	57	12	White Wolf	17		
12.4	900	315	Watts Elec	455	4	4
17.2	148	804	Zambia Copper	804		

370	31	5900 bid	31	7
487	56	45 tend	537	35
532	13	362	135	

OTHER FINANCIAL				
134	84	Aberdeen Asset	100	
775	246	AMERISCAP	507	
261	120	BMO	281	
55	37	Bury Bch Mtl	41	
294	170	Bonrich Inv	262	

463	2195	Panasonic	1380	21	2.4
1256	685	Prosound	893	21	3.8
641	367	Reichman Bt	562	10	3.6
37	32	Rex Browsers	37	1	2.8
29	41	Refined Inc	414	5	5.2
714	40	SEC Group	519	1	5.9
392	228	S & U	246	5	6.9
1775	630	Schroeder, NV	1081	12	2.2
795	545	See 1st Bldg	542	7	5.5
125	50	Scopes & Freed	96	4	4.3
231	35	Swamy Lbr	38	1	3.9
7	7	3rd Hds Bridge	6		
40	14	Union	91	1	
371	45	Univacorp Gp	21		0.6
482	354	Venemac	390		5.1


1982-83	129.3411	-0.0763	8.57
1983-84	122.0762	-0.0649	5.94
1984-85	137.9565	-0.1150	6.55
1985-86	114.6701	-0.1753	5.04
1986-87	122.2251	-0.1753	6.05
1987-88	119.3967	-0.1755	5.28
1988-89	164.9255	-0.1762	8.21
1989-90	147.6487	-0.2381	6.17
1990-91	171.7633	-0.0551	4.92
1991-92	162.2017	-0.0944	5.62

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

To receive a FREE copy of **PENNY SHARE GUIDE**, Britain's No. 1 publication for tipping exciting smaller company shares PLUS an exclusive FREE market report pack including details of how to claim a FREE copy of *The Investor's Guide to How the Stock Market Really Works*, published by the *Financial Times*/Pitman Publishing, simply...

Approved by Fleet Street Publications Ltd, who are

regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.
Registered Office: 271 Regent Street, London W1R 7PA

 Financial Information

The post is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Investments in smaller companies generally have a higher risk factor and it can be more difficult to realise such an investment. This investment is not suitable for every one. If you have not asked, you should obtain expert advice.

196	43	51	196	43	51
197	44	52	197	44	52
198	45	53	198	45	53
199	46	54	199	46	54
200	47	55	200	47	55
201	48	56	201	48	56
202	49	57	202	49	57
203	50	58	203	50	58
204	51	59	204	51	59
205	52	60	205	52	60
206	53	61	206	53	61
207	54	62	207	54	62
208	55	63	208	55	63
209	56	64	209	56	64
210	57	65	210	57	65
211	58	66	211	58	66
212	59	67	212	59	67
213	60	68	213	60	68
214	61	69	214	61	69
215	62	70	215	62	70
216	63	71	216	63	71
217	64	72	217	64	72
218	65	73	218	65	73
219	66	74	219	66	74
220	67	75	220	67	75
221	68	76	221	68	76
222	69	77	222	69	77
223	70	78	223	70	78
224	71	79	224	71	79
225	72	80	225	72	80
226	73	81	226	73	81
227	74	82	227	74	82
228	75	83	228	75	83
229	76	84	229	76	84
230	77	85	230	77	85
231	78	86	231	78	86
232	79	87	232	79	87
233	80	88	233	80	88
234	81	89	234	81	89
235	82	90	235	82	90
236	83	91	236	83	91
237	84	92	237	84	92
238	85	93	238	85	93
239	86	94	239	86	94
240	87	95	240	87	95
241	88	96	241	88	96
242	89	97	242	89	97
243	90	98	243	90	98
244	91	99	244	91	99
245	92	100	245	92	100
246	93	101	246	93	101
247	94	102	247	94	102
248	95	103	248	95	103
249	96	104	249	96	104
250	97	105	250	97	105
251	98	106	251	98	106
252	99	107	252	99	107
253	100	108	253	100	108
254	101	109	254	101	109
255	102	110	255	102	110
256	103	111	256	103	111
257	104	112	257	104	112
258	105	113	258	105	113
259	106	114	259	106	114
260	107	115	260	107	115
261	108	116	261	108	116
262	109	117	262	109	117
263	110	118	263	110	118
264	111	119	264	111	119
265	112	120	265	112	120
266	113	121	266	113	121
267	114	122	267	114	122
268	115	123	268	115	123
269	116	124	269	116	124
270	117	125	270	117	125
271	118	126	271	118	126
272	119	127	272	119	127
273	120	128	273	120	128
274	121	129	274	121	129
275	122	130	275	122	130
276	123	131	276	123	131
277	124	132	277	124	132
278	125	133	278	125	133
279	126	134	279	126	134
280	127	135	280	127	135
281	128	136	281	128	136
282	129	137	282	129	137
283	130	138	283	130	138
284	131	139	284	131	139
285	132	140	285	132	140
286	133	141	286	133	141
287	134	142	287	134	142
288	135	143	288	135	143
289	136	144	289	136	144
290	137	145	290	137	145
291	138	146	291	138	146
292	139	147	292	139	147
293	140	148	293	140	148
294	141	149	294	141	149
295	142	150	295	142	150
296	143	151	296	143	151
297	144	152	297	144	152
298	145	153	298	145	153
299	146	154	299	146	154
300	147	155	300	147	155
301	148	156	301	148	156
302	149	157	302	149	157
303	150	158	303	150	158
304	151	159	304	151	159
305	152	160	305	152	160
306	153	161	306	153	161
307	154	162	307	154	162
308	155	163	308	155	163
309	156	164	309	156	164
310	157	165	310	157	165
311	158	166	311	158	166
312	159	167	312	159	167
313	160	168	313	160	168
314	161	169	314	161	169
315	162	170	315	162	170
316	163	171	316	163	171
317	164	172	317	164	172
318	165	173	318	165	173
319	166	174	319	166	174
320	167	175	320	167	175
321	168	176	321	168	176
322	169	177	322	169	177
323	170	178	323	170	178
324	171	179	324	171	179
325	172	180	325	172	180
326	173	181	326	173	181
327	174	182	327	174	182
328	175	183	328	175	183
329	176	184	329	176	184
330	177	185	330	177	185
331	178	186	331	178	186
332	179	187	332	179	187
333	180	188	333	180	188
334	181	189	334	181	189
335	182	190	335	182	190
336	183	191	336	183	191
337	184	192	337	184	192
338	185	193	338	185	193
339	186	194	339	186	194
340	187	195	340	187	195
341	188	196	341	188	196
342	189	197	342	189	197
343	190	198	343	190	198
344	191	199	344	191	199
345	192	200	345	192	200
346	193	201	346	193	201
347	194	202	347	194	202
348	195	203	348	195	203
349	196	204	349	196	204
350	197	205	350	197	205
351	198	206	351	198	206
352	199	207	352	199	207
353	200	208	353	200	208
354	201	209	354	201	209
355	202	210	355	202	210
356	203	211	356	203	211
357	204	212	357	204	212
358	205	213	358	205	213
359	206	214	359	206	214
360	207	215	360	207	215
361	208	216	361	208	216
362	209	217	362	209	217
363	210	218	363	210	218
364	211	219	364	211	219
365	212	220	365	212	220
366	213	221	366	213	221
367	214	222	367	214	222
368	215	223	368	215	223
369	216	224	369	216	224
370	217	225	370	217	225
371	218	226	371	218	226
372	219	227	372	219	227
373	220	228	373	220	228
374	221	229	374	221	229
375	222	230	375	222	230
376	223	231	376	223	231
377	224	232	377	224	232
378	225	233	378	225	233
379	226	234	379	226	234
380	227	235	380	227	235
381	228	236	381	228	236
382	229	237	382	229	237
383	230	238	383	230	238
384	231	239	384	231	239
385	232	240	385	232	240
386	233	241	386	233	241
387	234	242	387	234	242
388	235	243	388	235	243
389	236	244	389	236	244
390	237	245	390	237	245
391	238	246	391	238	246
392	239	247	392	239	247
393	240	248	393	240	248
394	241	249	394	241	249
395	242	250	395	242	250
396	243	251	396	243	251
397	244	252	397	244	252
398	245	253	398	245	253
399	246	254	399	246	254
400	247	255	400	247	255
401	248	256	401	248	256
402	249	257	402	249	257
403	250	258	403	250	258
404	251	259	404	251	259
405	252	260	405	252	260
406	253	261	406	253	261
407	254	262	407	254	262
408	255	263	408	255	263
409	256	264	409	256	264
410	257	265	410	257	265
411	258	266	411	258	266
412	259	267	412	259	267
413	260	268	413	260	268
414	261	269	414	261	269
415	262	270	415	262	270
416	263	271	416	263	271
417	264	272	417	264	272
418	265	273	418	265	273
419	266	274	419	266	274
420	267	275	420	267	275
421	268	276	421	268	276
422	269	277	422	269	277
423	270	278	423	270	278
424	271	279	424	271	279
425	272	280	425	272	280
426	273	281	426	273	281
427	274	282	427	274	282
428	275	283	428	275	283
429	276	284	429	276	284
430	277	285	430	277	285
431	278	286	431	278	286
432	279	287	432	279	287
433	280	288	433	280	288
434	281	289	434	281	289
435	282	290	435	282	290
436	283	291	436	283	291
437	284	292	437	284	292
438					

[illegible]

STOCKS (5 to 15 years)				TREASURY			
10-11	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
12-13	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
14-15	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
16-17	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
18-19	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
20-21	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
22-23	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
24-25	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
26-27	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
28-29	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
30-31	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
32-33	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
34-35	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
36-37	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
38-39	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
40-41	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
42-43	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
44-45	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
46-47	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
48-49	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
50-51	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
52-53	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
54-55	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
56-57	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
58-59	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
60-61	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
62-63	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
64-65	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
66-67	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
68-69	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
70-71	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
72-73	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
74-75	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
76-77	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
78-79	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
80-81	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
82-83	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
84-85	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
86-87	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
88-89	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
90-91	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
92-93	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
94-95	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
96-97	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
98-99	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
100-101	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
102-103	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
104-105	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
106-107	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
108-109	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
110-111	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
112-113	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
114-115	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
116-117	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
118-119	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
120-121	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
122-123	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
124-125	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
126-127	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
128-129	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
130-131	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
132-133	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
134-135	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
136-137	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
138-139	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
140-141	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000
142-143	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000

مذخر من الاصل

A			B			C			D			E			F			G			H			I			J			K			L			M			N			O			P			Q			R			S			T			U			V			W			X			Y			Z			AA			AB			AC			AD			AE			AF			AG			AH			AI			AJ			AK			AL			AM			AN			AO			AP			AQ			AR			AS			AT			AU			AV			AW			AX			AY			AZ			BA			BB			BC			BD			BE			BF			BG			BH			BI			BJ			BK			BL			BM			BN			BO			BP			BQ			BR			BS			BT			BU			BV			BW			BX			BY			BZ			CA			CB			CC			CD			CE			CF			CG			CH			CI			CJ			CK			CL			CM			CN			CO			CP			CQ			CR			CS			CT			CU			CV			CW			CX			CY			CZ			DA			DB			DC			DD			DE			DF			DG			DH			DI			DJ			DK			DL			DM			DN			DO			DP			DQ			DR			DS			DT			DU			DV			DW																																																																																																																																																																																																															
1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	1000000	100

Annie Turner introduces a three-page special report on an industry transformed by space-age technology and lower overheads

Internet triggers data boom

The telecommunications industry is in a frenzy. Its traditional trade, telephone calls (including faxes) is growing at 6 per cent a year in the West. Such a rise would be enviable in many industries, yet it pales when compared with the estimated growth in data traffic, which consultants put at about 150 per cent a year in developed countries.

That figure comes from Deloitte Consulting. Most of this new traffic has been generated by the Internet, which consumers and many businesses access via the telephone network.

The biggest companies have a dedicated link, which will not be long before data transmission surpasses vocal interchange as the dominant form of long-distance communication. It is already happening in Britain. Last November Bill Cockburn, the managing director of British Telecom, announced that more data is transmitted over BT's telephone network than voice calls.

Things have moved fast since then. Freeserve, a free Internet access service launched last September by the Dixons Group, the electrical retailer, now has 900,000 customers, making it the world's fastest-growing Internet service provider. Dixons reckons an average of 8,000 people join its service daily, 40 per cent of whom are

new to the Internet. Freeserve provides free Net access, electronic mail service, UK-based news and 15 megabytes of Web space per customer.

It makes money by receiving a small percentage of the cost of the local call necessary to connect the user to the Net, which varies between one and six pence per minute. Dixons claims to save consumers an average of £150 a year, compared with "traditional" Internet service providers, which typically charge a monthly fee.

The Dixons experience is illustrative of a change across the developed world. It is now widely accepted that telecoms underpin just about every other industry, so many countries are opening up their telecom markets to competition after years of resistance. At the beginning of last year, most of the European Union member countries opened their telecom sectors to full competition, while much of Latin America and parts of Asia are doing the same.

New players are keen to enter liberalised markets because the combination of new technology and lower overheads means that they can compete with the incumbent operator, which was likely to have been part of the civil service, not a commercial organisation with shareholder pressures.

As Dixons has shown to great effect, in this new, multilayered market, there is a great opportunity for

non-telecoms companies to be successful service providers, leaving others to provide the infrastructure and administration.

A whole new breed of telecoms service providers has grown up to exploit new markets and the insatiable demand for more capacity, or bandwidth. Companies such as WorldCom, Carrier 1 and Level 3 recognised that by building their own inter-

'People in the street are having a marvellous time. They are getting better services for less and less money'

national networks, they could circumnavigate the accounting rate system — the way in which the former monopolies carved up revenue from international calls between them through a series of agreements.

The new generation is building infrastructure using cheaper, newer technologies that can provide huge amounts of bandwidth at a stroke.

Naturally, they install more capacity than they actually need and sell it on to other carriers who, elsewhere in the world, are probably their rivals.

This process has given rise to an industry that is complex in structure, increasingly works through arbitrage and has spawned many niche service opportunities, such as that grasped by Dixons. Analysts estimate that the Freeserve initiative has added £1 to the Dixons share price. That would make Freeserve worth £433 million if it were a separate company, according to the industry newspaper *Communications Week International*. Dixons hopes to make a great deal more money in the future from advertising and Net commerce. The UK market for Net retail sales could be as much as £2.8 billion by 2003.

With the promise of such riches, it is little wonder that all around the world, the telecoms sector has defied gravity. For example, the financial markets were in turmoil in October, when the first tranche of the former Swiss monopoly's shares was sold, yet the shares were massively oversubscribed. Altogether, more than £24 billion was raised in telecoms and related stock on the world's stock markets in 1998.

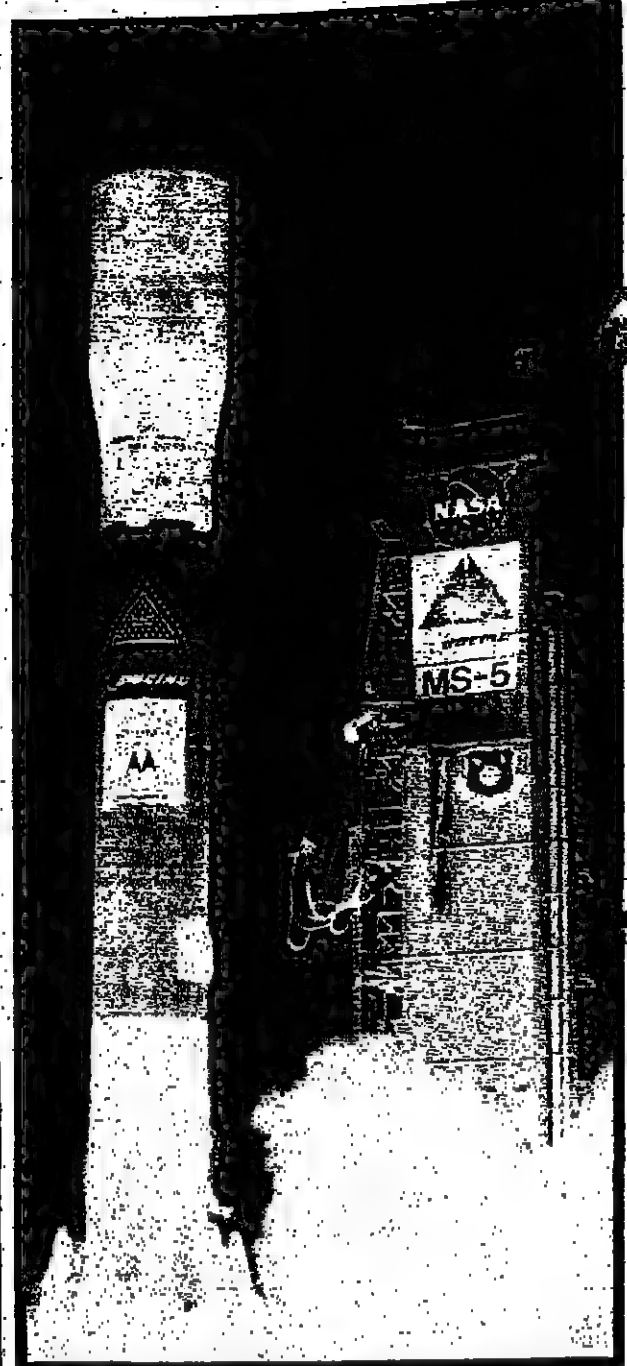
WorldCom, the aggressive US-based company that surprised everyone by snatching MCI from BT's acquisitive jaws last year, has based its

entire business plan on the fact that it will keep growing at an amazing rate — and the financial sector has backed it to the hilt.

Marcus de Ferranti is the managing director and co-founder of Band-X, based in London. Two years ago, the company was the first in the world to offer bandwidth for sale on the open market, matching up prospective buyers and sellers for a flat fee. The service has become increasingly sophisticated so that it now operates like a quasi-stock market and has emulators in other advanced markets such as the US and Canada.

Mr de Ferranti says: "Rates on international routes are plummeting. Once a country liberalises its telecommunications, prices usually fall by a factor of ten in two years. Everyone thinks prices are going to hit rock bottom and stabilise, but they just keep going down and the speed of their fall is catching everyone out. At the moment, competition in the wholesale market is fierce and lots of people are selling below cost. I believe the bubble will burst within the next couple of years and that will drive a massive period of consolidation."

Mr de Ferranti adds: "Some people will lose money on the stock market, but the person in the street is having a marvellous time. They are the real beneficiaries, getting better and better services for less and less money."



High hopes: an Iridium satellite is powered into space

Iridium fights back in war of satellites

In November the first salvo was fired in the battle for supremacy in satellite mobile phones — but so far it has failed to set the world ablaze.

Iridium, the first into the marketplace, has launched 66 satellites into low Earth orbit (LEO) — 468 miles high. These transmit calls around the world and down to 12 Earth stations or "gateways", where they link with the terrestrial phone network. But technical problems, poor transmission quality, lack of handsets and criticisms about costs have dogged Iridium's early days.

Figures released last week show that there has been little take-up of subscriptions globally, and not a single handset has been sold in Britain. Satellite phones have, of course, been around for years. Briefcase-sized, they must be set up in advance and aimed at a satellite 21,240 miles above the Equator, so you are unable to call someone travelling around — you must wait until they call you. Because of the lower orbit, Iridium handsets need less power, are lighter and more portable. Made by Motorola and Kyocera, they look like mobile phones with bigger antennae, and cost around £2,200.

The system was intended to revolutionise communications for business travellers outside the conventional cellular network and to attract people working in less developed countries, users of commercial and leisure boats, long-distance trucks and aid organisations.

Signals travel more quickly to LEO satellites, reducing the delay that can make conversations so awkward.

Iridium has recruited conventional cellular service providers as "roaming partners" to make the links in cities — in the UK it is Orange. Iridium also offers worldwide paging services and a GSM-style short message service, and has promised e-mail and fax. But the firm has been heavily criticised for the complexity of its cost structure, in which it acts as a wholesaler, selling airtime to the gateway operators. It sells it to the service providers and roaming partners, who sell it at retail prices to the customer.

Andrew Tolpelt is a telecoms market analyst at Philipps Tariffica, which monitors telecom pricing. He says: "Service providers can set prices at what they feel the market justifies. It's a global system, so you can go to a service

provider in a cheaper region." Lance Stevens, the business development manager at Orange, cites as an example the cost of an Iridium call from the UK to America of £3 per minute and to China of £4.22. For those who are not already Orange customers, there are also connection and monthly subscription charges — as well as the cost of the phone. However, Orange is still testing the service and is not yet offering it to consumers. Multinational businesses are in a position to select the service provider which offers the best deal. Is this unfair to individuals?

Craig Bond, Iridium's vice-president of market development, says: "Each country has different taxes and import tariffs on handsets and papers — differences over which we have no control. Shopping around is inevitable."

Even then, the cost of going mobile by satellite is still considerable. Jonathan Morgan-Jones, a researcher with the Telecom Managers' Association, says: "Iridium has chosen a sensible model because it is flexible. You can use your current cellular service provider, and put your Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) card in an Iridium phone."

But the flipside is the cost — due to their need to recover their investment quickly.

Costs will be brought into focus this autumn when Globalstar, a consortium led by Loral Space & Communications, starts commercial service; and in 2000, ICO Global Co. launches a satellite phone service. As well as voice and paging services, Globalstar plans to offer fax, data transmission and position location services. ICO claims the highest data rates among its immediate competitors but is focusing on voice, fax and e-mail.

Like Iridium, both competitors are planning to sell wholesale time to service providers. Handsets are expected to cost £600 and airtime costs are estimated at £1 per minute by Globalstar and £1.20 by ICO.

Both companies are also targeting parts of the world with little or no telecoms infrastructure. ICO has struck a deal with the payphone manufacturer, Landis & Gyr to provide satellite phone booths.

Mike Johnson, global media director for ICO, says that developing world services will be subsidised by those for business travellers.

SUE SPENCELEY BURCH

No other communications supplier can tick all the boxes.

- ✓ BT's ISDN allows you to send and receive large amounts of information via your PC in seconds.
- ✓ BT is committed to saving your business money — we've cut call prices 13 times in the last two years.
- ✓ We were the first communications supplier in the UK to provide a Customer Service Guarantee scheme which offers compensation if we miss an appointment for installation or repair.
- ✓ BT has business account managers who can speak to many of our ethnic customers in their own language.
- ✓ BT spends £280 million every year on research and development in the UK, as part of our commitment to bring customers innovative products and services.
- ✓ With 4,000 products in our UK portfolio, our business team provide a one-stop shop for every communications need, from telephone lines to complex data solutions.
- ✓ BT has a range of business discount plans which can save you money whenever you call.
- ✓ BT tests millions of lines every night to make sure they're in good working order.
- ✓ BT's call charging accuracy has British Approvals Board for Telecommunications approval.
- ✓ In business we know efficiency is vital, that's why we have 53,000 engineers working around the clock to ensure our quality of service is second to none.
- ✓ We've invested £27 billion in our network over the last 14 years. Not only does that mean we offer a reliable service today, but we'll be capable of coping with the technology of tomorrow.
- ✓ We ensure that 99.82% of all the calls we handle get through successfully, and we're constantly working to improve this figure.
- ✓ With BT's per second pricing, you only pay for the time you talk (minimum charge 5p per call).
- ✓ Whatever size your enterprise — from small startup to global conglomerate — we have products, services and discount packages to suit your individual needs.
- ✓ BT Contract Rentals allow your business to benefit from using the most advanced products whilst enabling you to spread the costs over time.
- ✓ With 140,000 BT payphones from Lands End to John O'Groats, you can keep in touch whenever you're on the move.

No wonder thousands of businesses come back to BT every month.

Some telecoms companies can offer you some of these things. But only BT can offer all of them. In fact in a recent FORTUNE* magazine survey* of the world's most admired telecoms companies, BT ranked the highest in Europe. To find out more about these and the many other reasons why businesses large and small are choosing to be with BT, call **Freefone 0800 800 800** or visit us at www.bt.com

The World's Most Admired Companies, FORTUNE magazine, 29th October 1998.



future
and wh

Providers
who seek a
Net profit

500 من ريال

A future of colour and whiz-bangs

The world's existing telecommunications network is coming to the end of its useful life, a notion that is hard to grasp in the light of its current use.

Last year, international phone calls amounted to about 90 billion minutes, up from 82 billion in 1997, according to the Geneva-based International Telecommunication Union. Yet by volume (as opposed to value) international calls account for only 2 per cent of the total number, the vast majority of which are local calls.

The existing network was built to carry phone calls — soon destined to become a small portion of the traffic generated by developed countries where data traffic is growing by as much as 150 per cent a year. This is because of the apparently inexorable rise of the Internet which has 100 million users, a number expected to double in the next 18 months.

This is causing capacity shortages on many routes, particularly transatlantic links, because at least 60 per cent of Internet traffic is still routed via America.

Marie Wold, the head of the European Telecommunications and Media Institute at Deloitte Consulting, points out that the next generation of mobile phones (which will be available from 2002 onwards) is being designed to deal with data as well as voice. She predicts: "By 2010 about 90 per cent of traffic on mobile networks will be data."

It is not just the volume that is creating problems, but the phone network's use of circuit switching which maintains a live, dedicated link between the parties during a telephone call.

This is a very inefficient use of network capacity, or bandwidth, especially when compared with data's use of packet-switched technology. Here data is chopped up into small packets, each of which is addressed to the recipient and sequentially numbered.

The packets are fired into

Tomorrow's digital and mobile phones will supply customers with voice, data and other services, says Annie Turner.

the mesh of the network and might take different routes to reach their destinations, being reassembled in the right order at the far end using their sequence numbers. Packets can also be interleaved with those from other transmissions en route.

The technology used to "packetise" a voice, so that it is treated as just another type of data, is advancing in leaps and bounds. Still images and video, too, can be transmitted in this way, which means that many types of traffic can be treated in a uniform fashion, leveraging economies of scale for network operators and greatly simplifying network management.

The Internet appears both to have created the problem and provided a solution for it in the shape of Internet Protocol (IP). This is the transport mechanism which comprises rules to ensure the smooth running of the network, averting traffic jams and collisions on the Internet and on the new generation of networks.

And IP will not only rule on core networks. There is a host of new "access technologies" that will ensure that IP traffic flows right into people's homes — fixed wireless links might be employed or the existing copper cabling in the ground, but with whiz-bang electronics on the exchange and consumer ends of the line. By whatever means it is delivered, IP will mean that consumers have digital links from end-to-end, but with far faster line speeds than are currently available with Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN).

Bob Brace, the marketing director with Nokia Telecommunications based at Heath-

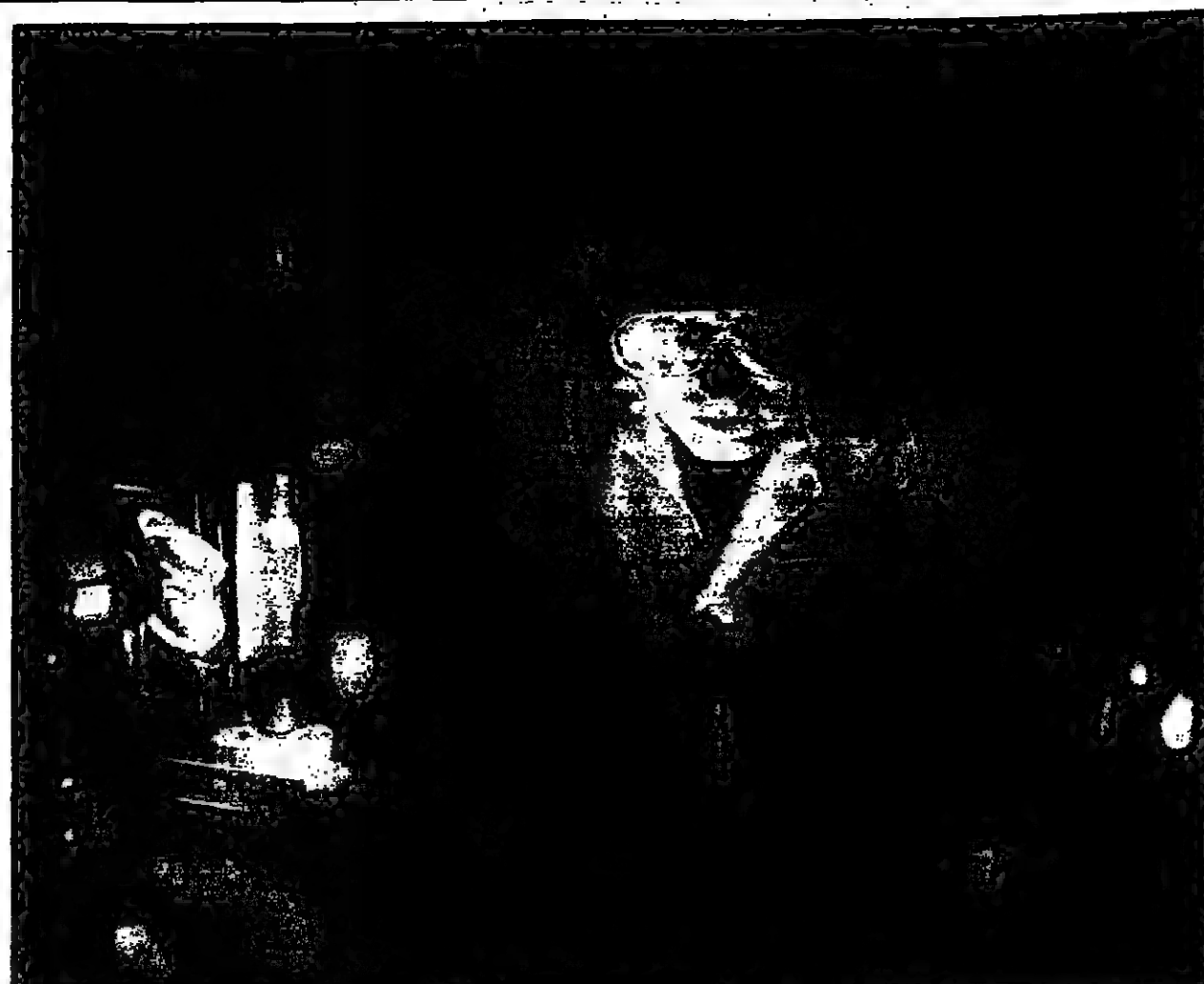
row, says: "IP will be a tremendous unifying factor. We will end up with a single network connection into the home for games, multiple phone lines for different members of the family, video-on-demand, access to information and electronic mail."

"You will be able to download the latest CD — or just the parts of it you want — instead of having to go to the shop or listen to a Californian radio station online."

The American television channel NBC is already exploring new ways of delivering information in addition to broadcasting, Mr Brace says. "This includes cable television infrastructure and the Internet," he says. "Television as we know it now will be steam-geared technology in ten years."

Likewise advances in the core transmission network are dwarfing current fibre-optic capacities. A new technology known as Wave Division Multiplexing (WDM) splits up the light signal into colours, producing multiple different-length signals which can be transmitted simultaneously. Originally, one fibre pair had the capacity to carry 32,000 voices at once. Two years ago Ciena, one of the pioneers of WDM, deployed a cable that could simultaneously support 16 different length signals or channels, which means it can carry the equivalent of 512,000 voice calls, according to Guy Powell, the managing director of Ciena for Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

He says: "Systems with 96 channels will shortly be deployed that will support almost three million calls at once. In data terms, that translates to one terabit [a million million bits]."



Using lasers to break white light into multiple colours allows a single fibre to carry a million-plus phone calls per second

Providers who seek a Net profit

A new breed of business, the Internet service provider or ISP, has emerged from the rapid growth of Internet traffic. For a monthly subscription, providers such as Yahoo!, America Online, Virgin Net and Direct Connection will connect you to the Net and provide an e-mail address.

Connecting your computer to a modem allows you to transmit data on the phone line. When you log on to the ISP's host computer or server, you can send and receive messages, as well as access online information and surf the World Wide Web, for the price of a local phone call.

It sounds like a lot of investment for the ISP for very little return. But the profit area is electronic commerce: home banking or shopping over the Net. Being an ISP opens the door to business opportunities and new ISPs are starting up all the time. Tesco is offering an ISP service in expectation of a home-shopping revolution that could see a fleet of vans deliver groceries that have been ordered on the Web.

And the rock star David Bowie has set up an ISP. Alex Judd of Presco, a Net ad agency, says: "The man will do live chats. The site is sold on novelty value."

BT claims that the Net has a 6 per cent market penetration in the UK and that it is likely to rise greatly with the coming of digital TV when set-top boxes will be able to bring the Net into the home. More than 1.3 million households have access to the Net, making them online customers for the ISPs.

But Net opportunities are international and many of the big players — such as America Online, Excite Inc and CompuServe UK — originated in the US. Marie Wold of Deloitte Consulting says: "ISPs are doubling their business every five or six months throughout Europe and every three months in the US. We're seeing massive proliferation:

there doesn't appear to be a slowdown."

The decision by Dixons to offer free Net access — which it can do through a deal with the telecommunications company Energis — is putting the pressure on other ISPs to offer more value. And with the growing revenues from online advertising and e-commerce, ISPs are able to offer some good deals.

Virgin Net has gone for subsidised rather than free Net access. David Johnson, its commercial director, says: "We're evolving into something even more closely aligned to the Virgin brand and we are making the most of retail opportunities in areas of business that Virgin operates in." Subscribers can book their Virgin flights, buy CDs, or listen to Virgin radio and — through a tie-in with Citibank — enjoy free home banking and current accounts that pay interest.

The rapidly evolving ISPs are finding that to cash in on e-commerce, they need to build customer loyalty. ISPs are trying hard to differentiate themselves by offering useful services to customers — content such as news, music and sport, as well as chat communities and subscriber offers. Quality of service is a big issue, as anyone who has experienced the frustrations of connecting at times of peak demand can testify.

Presco's Mr Judd says: "Many ISPs are investing in more powerful infrastructure to ensure a faster service, better support and a better connection rate. What is termed the hassle factor comes into it — if you always get connected first time, you will remain loyal. Some ISPs are offering subscribers free Web space to set up their own site."

Each ISP can exploit a different niche market. Pipex, for example, offers an information service aimed at journalists. One of the biggest niche markets is education — eventually 30,000 UK schools will be linked to the National Grid for Learning.

STEPHEN HOARE



Connect with Asia

NTT — The ideal choice for communications.

Arctstar Advanced global communications from NTT.

Arctstar offers you a uniquely reliable global connection. In fact, no one offers a stronger connection with Asia and the Pacific. In Japan, for example, NTT has been providing fully dependable communications for more than a century. As one of the world's leading telecom providers, NTT can provide you and your global offices with an unsurpassed level of service. From round-the-clock multi-language assistance and business support to emergency backup. Now, connecting with Asia is a simple matter of connecting with the right partner.



NTT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

For more information, please contact: NTT Europe Ltd, Level 19, City Tower, 40 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DE, Tel: 44-171-256-7151

<http://info.ntt.co.jp/global>

Dawn of a new age for Japan

The multimedia market is set to play a major part in the country's economy, says Ruth Taplin

THE subtlety and understatement of Japanese culture often makes it appear that little is happening in the country. However, in the telecommunications and IT sectors, change is occurring rapidly at all levels.

Digital TV broadcasting has brought multimedia into the mainstream of Japanese society, producing links between telecommunications, broadcasting and information services. The multimedia markets are restructuring and laying the groundwork for future growth. With high-speed, high-volume communications made possible by fibre optic networks, teleshopping, home communications, karaoke, Internet TV and digital versatile disk (DVD) are all being planned for the 21st century to support the economy in the future.

DVD, the latest in CD-Rom technology, has a huge storage capacity, able to provide up to 133 minutes of video playback time. The Japanese Ministry of Post and Telecommunications has predicted that 123 trillion yen will be spent by consumers on the multimedia market by 2010. Internet services are also becoming more established: the Multimedia Contents Association of Japan (MMCA) has found that Internet users total more than ten million. E-mail, personal computer communications and network shopping at virtual shopping centres are becoming more usual in Japan.

The restructuring of existing networks such as NTT and KDD and newly created networks such as International Digital Communications (IDC), Teleway Japan (TWJ) and Nippon Tsushin (IDO) and Japan Telecom are laying the foundations for new Internet-related businesses that involve electronic money and Internet telephones.

Competition in Japan is growing — exemplified by the fact that 123 Type 1 telecommunications businesses now exist in the country. Although NTT remains the largest company — dominating long-distance and local services with turnover of more than \$60 billion — its predominance is now being challenged.

KDD, once involved only in international calls, now offers a domestic phone service that can provide cheaper calls than NTT in categories exceeding 12 miles. Competition is forcing NTT and KDD to offer more attractive rates. The Toyota Motor Corpora-

tion (TMC) is a good example of how the deregulated new communications networks operate in Japan: TMC is the major equity shareholder in TWJ, IDC and IDO.

TWJ is involved in a number of services, such as the 0070 Freephone, a call connect service, VPN (Virtual Personal Exclusive Line Networks), Cell Relay Service and Teleway Sirius, an Internet service provider. Its sales are more than 110 billion yen.

IDC is involved in optic fibre cable-laying projects: IDC Home Dial, a credit card-based automatic dialling service from overseas to Japan; it started Internet International Gateway services; established IDO Solutions, a 100 per cent-owned subsidiary; and in March 1998 expanded its services to 208 locations. Its turnover is more than 70 billion yen. IDO has been involved in cellular phone and digital cellular phone services. Since March 1997 it has been collaborating with DDI in the introduction of CDMA digital protocol cellular phone services. GSM, the traditional digital protocol technology, has not been readily available in Japan, so the spread of CDMA will need to be assessed.

IDO is a good example of how complex Japanese telecommunications are presenting many obstacles to Western companies. The extent of co-operation among rival Japanese communication networks is remarkable. In the PHS market, for example, most regions have three companies competing to provide improved services. Toyota, through its TWJ arm, is supporting the construction of a nationwide network by investing capital in Astel Tokyo and Astel Chubu. TWJ invests in Astel companies throughout Japan. The PHS has been one of the most popular mobile phones here. NTT, with its Personal Communications Network, is its main rival, along with DDI Pocket Telephone.

It is difficult to see where the room exists for American or European companies. The problem for Japanese companies is that at home and abroad all their efforts are invested in Japanese-related activities. NTT, KDD and even Toyota are fulfilling the needs of Japanese companies and consumers for their telecommunications and multimedia services. The test will be whether they can successfully challenge Western companies, and become household names as they did with cameras, photocopyers and the like.

The test will be whether companies can successfully challenge Western rivals

The Finns and the Italians have gone mad for mobiles, says Tony Dawe

Two of the most disparate nationalities in Europe are rivaling each other in the race to top the league of mobile phone users.

The Finns, famous for being fair-skinned and taciturn, and the olive-skinned and gregarious Italians could become the most permanently switched-on peoples within a couple of years, according to research by Salomon merchant bank. It predicts that the two countries will be the first to have more mobile phones than people but for very different reasons.

The Finns have taken to mobile phones because the population is spread across the country. They have also been offered some of the lowest tariffs in the world," says John Jensen, Salomon's wireless analyst. "The Italians have been attracted to them because of excellent prepayment deals."

The popularity of mobiles in Finland has undoubtedly prospered because Nokia, which has just overtaken Motorola as the world's leading manufacturer of mobiles, is a Finnish company. It generates, on its own, a third of Finland's annual economic growth; its shares account for half the trading on the Helsinki stock exchange and Jorma Ollila, Nokia's president, was recently voted the second most powerful person in the country in a nationwide poll.

The company has not, however, swamped the country with cheap "terminals", as it calls the phones. Finns pay £100 and more for a phone but the cost of calls is hardly any more expensive than using a fixed line. Finland currently tops the mobile phone "penetration league", with 56 portables for every 100 people, according to recent statistics from the ECU World Cellular Database.

The forecasts that the number of phones will outstrip the number of people is based on their popularity among children, with nearly all 16 to 24-year-olds possessing a mobile. About one in three schoolchildren possesses one. They are marketed aggressively at children, with parents happy to buy Citiphones, which work only within Helsinki's boundaries and cut off after a fixed amount, normally 100 markka (€12), has been spent on calls. Mobile phones were top of the pre-teens' Christmas gift



Talking their way into the record books

third of the country's population. The boom may be slowed by an increase in the cost of calling cellular phones from fixed lines earlier this month. The increase resulted from a "simplification" of tariffs ordered by Italy's telecoms watchdog, which seems to benefit only those already enjoying off-peak deals.

Mr Jensen insists, however, that the Italians, together with the Finns, will continue to snap up mobile phones. He says: "The explosion in the use of the Internet has resulted partly from more and more people getting e-mail addresses and those without them feeling left out. The same will happen with mobile phones. When people without one are regularly asked for their mobile number, they will soon acquire one. The cost of not being a cellular subscriber is going up, but the cost of being connected is coming down."

lists and dominated newspaper and television advertising for the festive period.

In a country famous for its love of vodka, the future of the mobile phone could also be guaranteed by the discovery of one that runs on alcohol. Researchers at Manhattan Scientific in the United States have developed a phone with a fuel cell that works by a chemical process and is recharged by in-

jecting a small alcohol-fuel that provides enough power for two weeks' use.

In Italy the popularity of mobiles is a new phenomenon, with the launch of pre-paid services by Telecom Italia Mobile. Omnitel and their recently licensed rival, Wind, an Italian, French and German consortium. Customers buy their handsets at market rather than subsidised prices and

pay for their calls in advance. "The pre-paid services were promoted very cleverly and the prices pitched just right to catch on," says Mr Jensen.

The schemes also benefited from the traditionally high tariffs charged for calls from fixed lines. The services have helped the market to grow by 80 per cent in the past year to total 18 million subscribers, more than a

Capital ideas for inventors.

Without small and medium-sized enterprises, or SMEs, there would be no large telecommunications companies. All global multinationals start out as small companies with a good idea, and even when they become large, they still rely on smaller and medium-sized enterprises for cutting-edge ideas, Ruth Taplin writes.

The UK has no shortage of inventors, but it has had a shortage of visionary venture capital companies and late-pay legislation. The latter has been addressed by legislation concerning a Better Payment Practice Code pushed through by Barbara Roche, then Small Firms Minister, which demands that large firms pay interest at 8 per cent above base rate on overdue debts to small suppliers.

The other problem for high-tech companies is obtaining venture capital. This is especially difficult after the second or third phase of the project, when extra capital is needed for product update, a new sales effort and improved facilities.

Alex Henderson, managing director of Nairn Douglas, and past president of the Federation of Electronics Industry (FEI), notes signs of change for high-tech companies seeking venture capital. The FEI has run three successful investment forums at which innovators can present their cases for financial assistance to potential investors.

Individual and corporate investors are careful to assess whether market research has been done to prove that there is demand for a new technology and that the product or service constitutes a genuine breakthrough. Other pitfalls for innovators include inadequate business plans. Investors need to have a clear, convincing business plan before they are willing to commit funds.

Understanding who the investor is, whether individual or corporate, is essential for the high-tech company. Many investors have particular preferences or even geographical limits. Innovators need to familiarise themselves with the investors and their terms for offering money as well.

The different, but successful, approaches to corporate venturing show that both large institutional as well as

Venture capitalists are on the lookout for bright ideas

smaller, more individual companies can be effective in providing venture capital to the SME.

Celtic House Investment Corporation (CHIC) was founded by Terry Matthews, a Welsh-born entrepreneur who is the founder and chairman of Newbridge Network Corporation, a Canadian telecommunications company. Since its formation in 1987, Newbridge has increased its annual turnover to more than \$1 billion.

Mr Matthews set up CHIC in 1994 as his own private company to invest in high-growth start-up enterprises in the IT-telecom sector, with an emphasis on identifying technologies and businesses that are potentially complementary to Newbridge or that will give Newbridge exposure to a diversified range of emerging technologies.

This institutional approach has led to CHIC investing in almost 40 start-up companies. In some cases Newbridge has been a co-investor from the outset, such as with the Cambridge-based encryption company, nCipher.

In the Welsh convergence software company Ubiquity it has become an investor at a later date. Over the past year or so investments by CHIC/Newbridge in just four of such start-ups have resulted in gains of nearly \$300 million to the two companies.

A more individual approach shows that passion or an emotional investment in the company that the venture capital company is supporting can be just as important as providing monetary assistance.

Richard Davidson, who works in a specialist technology team based in the City of London that assists early stage companies with their financing, agrees. He says: "We try to find investors who not only understand the technology but are passionate about it."

This means a small number of highly skilled venture firms in Europe, but very often it can also mean having

ness. Mr Davidson says: "Zeus is the pick of the early-stage technology companies in the UK, and such was our passion for its business that we decided to get involved individually. I would say that it is passion, coupled with a healthy cynicism, that should guide the investor."

But, in the final analysis, whether you are seeking capital for an SME IT high-tech venture, or providing capital and passion, proceed with caution.

No Gimmicks, No Games. Just simple savings on your phone bill.

• Pay monthly by Direct Debit or Pre-Pay
• No need to change your phone or phone number

What would you expect from the fastest growing telecoms carrier in the world?

PRIMUS
GLOBAL network GLOBAL savings GLOBAL sense
Call free on 0800 036 0007

All prices shown are inclusive of VAT, are in pence per minute, and have been rounded to the nearest penny. Calls are charged for the first twelve seconds, thereafter at sixpence per second. Calls from payphones and mobile phones may be subject to a surcharge. Paying by Direct Debit is subject to status.

A MOBILE PHONE PUTS YOU AT THE CENTRE OF YOUR WORLD.

TIM

Live with no borders

otions

WINE'S GATE

Call 1-800-444-4444

Call 1-800-444-4444

Call 1-800-444-4444

Valentine's Day

مركز الامن لايكول

Notions and potions sure to win hearts

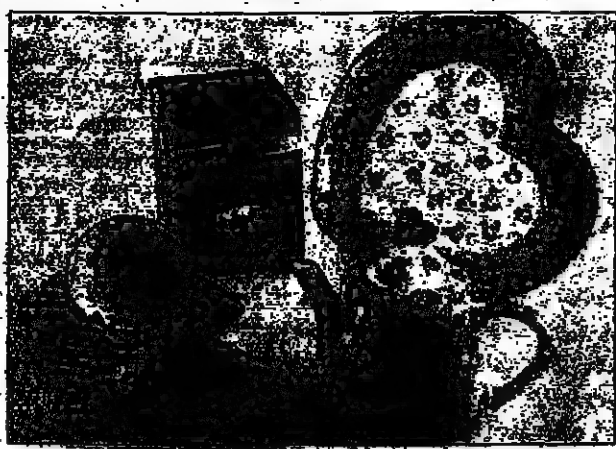
Katherine Bergen offers gift ideas for everyone from the most romantic to the most forgetful

The view — espoused by some women and men — that Valentine's Day is sentimental trash and should be ignored doesn't really wash. The irony is that it is the romantic shush factor that provides a welcome relief from the curmudgeonly attitudes we often engage in daily life.

How do you plan to celebrate? By Word of Mouth (0181-671 9333), the London caterer, suggests a delicious meal for two at home with ice cream and oysters, marinated salmon and heart-shaped passion-fruit parma cotta. First set the scene. "The napkins with pale pink organza and cover the table in crushed velvet, on which you can scatter rosehips and jasmine," says a spokeswoman for By Word of Mouth. "Put a vase of rosewater and some floating candles in the centre and arrange night-lights in frosted glass around the room for a warm atmosphere."

If you want garlic bread on your Valentine's Day menu, you can now do so without fear of offending. Tesco has bread that has a new strain of garlic baked inside — it looks and tastes like normal garlic but without the lingering aroma. The post-prandial kiss will be all the better for it. A serving costs 89p.

If you prefer tea for two,



Tea for two: sip Lady Grey from a special Twinings set

Twinings has new teas that feature heart-shaped plates and saucers covered in rosebuds and hearts. The £50 set comprises a teapot, five cups and saucers, a cake plate and a box of Twinings Lady Grey tea. (Twinings mail order 0171-353 3511).

When it comes to sentimental tosh, chocolates are the tastiest kind. Thorntons sells a large heart-shaped box in romantic red for £20.

Penhaligon's (Freephone

0800-716 108) has invented a whole new perfume for Valentine's Day — Love Potion No 9. The ladies' eau de toilette is pink and has green top notes, rich floral middle notes and base notes of precious wood and amber. The men's version is a citrus, spice and wood combination and comes in an intriguing black bottle. Prices start at £15.

Lavenders Blue (01483 211339), the mail-order company, has a Valentine selection. A silver heart box is £450, a

heart soap dish that includes a hand-made soap is £8.50, a mother-of-pearl heart is £4.50 and a terracotta heart dish filled with lavender or rose pot-pourri £12.50.

A company called 800 Hampers (0707 280800; website: www.800Hampers.com) offers a huge range. The Standard Romantic costs £24.99, while the Deluxe Romantic is £69.99. They include Glenroe smoked salmon, champagne and chocolates.

If your loved one has been overdoing it, present him or her with a hand-made heart footstool. It is upholstered in gold damask with matching tassels, and has beech legs. It costs £99.95 from House of Bath (0870 60 750 21).

The same company sells a heart curio table to house all



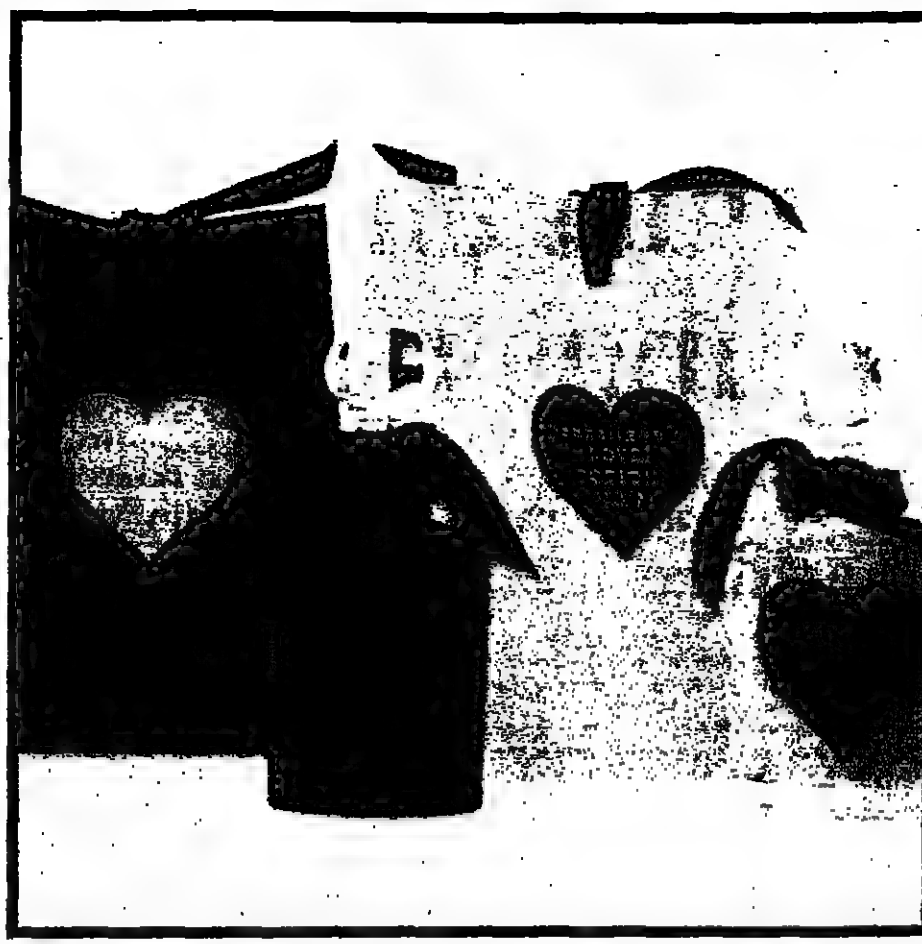
Thorntons' boxed choos

those romantic keepsakes for £89.95.

Care For The Wild International (01293-871 596), the wildlife charity, suggests adopting an orphaned animal as a long-lasting and meaningful gift. Having chosen an animal — elephant, rhino, chimpanzee, badger or tiger — the foster parent then receives an adoption certificate, a colour photograph of the orphan, a T-shirt, a factsheet, a video and a six-monthly update. Prices range from £14.95 to £49.95.

For another unconventional gesture, buy a property in Valentine Road, London E9. The estate agent Sovereign Park (0181-985 5800) has two properties there: a lower ground-floor garden flat for £69,995 and a three-bedroom maisonette with a roof terrace for £139,995.

Finally, if you are prone to forgetting dates such as Valentine's Day altogether, The Gift Delivery Company (01483 440892) has a free anniversary reminder service that goes with the gift delivery service, and is designed to ensure that busy people do not miss important anniversaries or special occasions. Customers register all the important dates by post, fax or over the Internet. Then, two weeks before the event, they are contacted and given a reminder and a list of goodies from which to choose.



Uncommon scents: Love Potion No 9, a new creation from Penhaligon's

A Gift for your Valentine

Make dreams come true

VALENTINE'S GIFTS

Call 0181 208 3333 for a colour brochure

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE NOW

800 Hampers

Thinking Romance? Think 800 Hampers.

Gifts for Valentine's Day

BEFORE

Special February offer

Subscribe today — only £20 for 10 issues, a discount of 20% off the cover price

AFTER

THE Erotic REVIEW

Post a cheque for £20 or Visa/MasterCard/Amex/Debit/Switch details to: EPS, Dept. TW08, 70 West Wyke, London W2 5AT. For your payment details (quoting Dept. TW08) to 0272-437 5238, or telephone them to 0272-437 5238. For delivery by Valentine's Day, we must receive your order by February 8.

Be my valentine

The Gift Delivery Co Ltd

Suggestions for Valentine's Day

Each item is beautifully gift wrapped and will tell your own special message. We have a gift for every occasion. Simply phone, fax or email your order to us. For a free catalogue Telephone 01483 440892 Fax 0171-681-3619 Email: gdc@citylink.co.uk Website: www.citylink.co.uk/gdc

Planet Reger

For the one you love

10 Brenchamp Place, London SW3 1JQ Tel: 0171 584 9360

Opening Times Monday - Friday 9am - 6pm Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday 11am - 5pm

MORLANDS SLIPPERS

the IDEAL GIFT

Call Free 0800 44 88 06

For your FREE Colour Catalogue, Lines are open 24 hours, 7 days a week

A Perfect Gift For Someone Special

Our Scented Scottish Salmon Chocolate Premier Crie Vellon from the Black Forest ME 12.20 net for delivery (includes a 10% discount)

THREE (HONG KONG) 27607233/4 Country Hampers

THE PERFECT VALENTINE GIFT

CHAMPAGNE AND CHOCOLATES

Award winning Champagne with Chocolates presented in a gift basket from £15.95 or our hand-drawn boxes of Belgian Chocolates 600g from £18.95.

ELTON WINNERS OF WINDSOR

CALL US FOR DETAILS or FREEPHONE 0500 332325 or 01753 796188

The Valentine's Gift

Silverstone

01327 850153

DAVID J. CO.

THE SOLID SILVER GIFT FOR THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE

CUT OUT A NAME

BALLOON IDEAS FOR QUALITY GIFTS

A variety of M & C Champagne, Handmade Chocolates or Fudge, Cuddly Toys in a Balloon-tote-bag

U.K. DELIVERY Tel/Fax 01232 824288 CUT OUT A NAME

NAME A

£49

The Ultimate Gift

0181 680 8000

Warbird Flying!

With our new motor you can experience the thrill of flying the T6 HARVARD

Gift vouchers for an unforgettable flight. Information and Booking Call 01273 462784

5% OFF

SECRET LOOKS

0171 481 4

THE PERFECT VALENTINE'S GIFT TO KEEP YOUR LOVED ONE WARM AND SNUGLY

Gifts for Valentine's Day

0181 844 1055

AERON AROMATHERAPY

Special Offer: Get one free essential oil and 10 replacement pads with the purchase of any Aeron Time Diffuser. Buy 2 Aeron Time Diffusers and get 2 Aeron Time Diffuser pads free.

ORDER NOW FOR VALENTINE'S DAY JUST £19.95 plus P&P

Call Aeron UK Limited FREE 0800 0730303

CREDIT CARD HOTLINE

0171 481 4

12 rich roses for your Valentine

Quality Blooms for the Ideal Romantic Gift!

£29.99

When better than now? Your Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Send a bouquet of 12 rich roses on Valentine's Day. Our fresh roses will be delivered by first class post to your front door in a premium condition.

We supply the flowers, you supply your own personal message of love, what could be better? Either complete, they can be ordered by card or by phone on 07000 725595. Our lines are open 24hrs and are manned from 9am to 9pm. Send us your orders by Valentine's Day 30th January 1999.

07000 725595

Please ensure you print your details clearly and complete all sections.

Description	Price Inc. p.p.	Quantity	Total Price
12 Roses	£22.49	£	£
Grand Total £			

On Please debit my credit card to the value of £

Mastercard ☐ Access ☐ Visa ☐ Switch ☐ Card Number

Card Expiry Date / / Signature

Issue Number (Switch)

My Name Recipient's Name

My Address Address

Postcode Postcode

Telephone (Home) Telephone (Work)

Message 12 words max

Please post this coupon to: BBP UK Ltd, 17 Church Street, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8DE. Alternatively you can fax it to us on 07000 900 900. Or visit our web site: www.e2link.demon.co.uk

If you prefer not to receive information from us regarding our future flower promotions, please tick this box. ☐

Is it hot stuff or just another listings mag?

Has Emap Metro's new title got what it takes to succeed in a tough market? Tina Gaudoin reports

Just because something is not a new idea doesn't mean it's a bad one. Emap Metro's newest publication, *heat*, claims to be the "ultimate weekly entertainment fix". However, if you're an entertainment junkie or you have spent time in America, you will quickly spot the similarities between *heat* and the hugely successful American publication *Entertainment Weekly* (although *EW* doesn't contain TV listings).

The comparison does not please Mark Williamson, the publisher of *heat*, who hotly denies any suggestion of a link, saying: "This has been an idea in David Hepworth's mind for at least five years." Granted, Hepworth, the editorial director whose triumphs include *Smash Hits*, *Just Seventeen*, *Q* and *More!*, is a publishing legend (at least in the magazine industry) and anything with his stamp stands more than an odds-on chance of succeeding. But, presented with the respective magazines, even my dog could sniff out the similarities.

According to Williamson: "We've spent lots of money and time designing *heat*. It has been a long time since *Entertainment Weekly* won any design awards." Ouch! Williamson and the *heat* team should be flattered, not defensive. *EW* broke the mould in the US and went on to make millions. There's no reason why *heat* shouldn't do the same. But

perhaps the *heat* team is asking itself the same question as everyone else about the launch of something dedicated to those who are, in Williamson's words, "mad for entertainment". Are there enough entertainment junkies out there to merit a weekly magazine? And, what's more, can the magazine do what *EW* does so well — deliver stories exclusively and first?

To say that Mark Frith, the editor of *heat*, is "bullish" about his magazine's chances would be an understatement. As a former magazine editor himself, it's hard not to overlook the carefully prepared pre-launch media soundbite (and why shouldn't he be prepared — this is a huge launch with a £4.5 million budget).

When I ask how *heat* will compete with the highly influential, huge-circulation weekend supplements, Frith's reply is textbook: "We are not in competition with anyone else. We are a one-stop shop for entertainment fans. We won't always be first, but we will always be best."

But the increasing "glossiness" of the Saturday and Sunday newspaper magazines, plus the advent of entertainment-based listing guides, such as *The Times*'s metro, the *Evening Standard*'s Hot Tickets and *The Guardian*'s The Guide, mean that the entertainment beat is more heavily populated than ever.

A weekly entertainment

magazine has the potential to break stories. Frith, the former editor of *Sky Magazine*, has surrounded himself with a crack team. Charles Gant, formerly of *The Face*, is one of Britain's best magazine film editors, and the news editor, Matt Smith, formerly at *NME*, should have great access to entertainment news stories. But do the British resemble the Americans in their "need" to consume infotainment on a vast scale? Do we really need to know the background to Leonardo Di Caprio's problems on the set of *The Beach*, for example? After all, most of us either read about it in the "red tops" or saw it on News at Ten.

I *heat* is to succeed it will need to do a lot better than tepid stories in the preview issue about why Cameron Diaz is the "most beautiful woman in the world": an "exclusive" on Ewan McGregor and Anna Friel in *Rogue Trader*, which is unaccompanied by a quote from either actor; a Q&A session with Christian Slater which asks "where did you go when you went out?" or a sexist article on The Corrs, which wastes two paragraphs on Andrea Corr's baddest outfit.

Not that there's anything wrong with any of these topics. I'm rather envious of Andrea Corr's figure myself. But I could get this stuff from any number of existing magazines.



High hopes: *heat*'s launch is costing £4.5 million

If *heat*'s readership is to remain loyal, it needs to be offered something more, or at least different. But (as I know to my cost) it's easy to knock a launch. And *heat* is full of MTV-style pace and energy. I like its well-researched readable pages — even though my favourite readbite (that Salman Rushdie and U2 have pooled talents to come up with a shanty) was in *The Guardian*.

an last week. The writing is humorous and sharp, although for a magazine that professes to be Brit-centric, there's a lot of American material. To be fair, the preview issue is not the same product that will hit the newsstands next week. The launch issue promises, among other things, Johnny and Kelly in a *Big Break* interview and a report on the Golden Globes — both

should be good. If I were to find fault with *heat*, I would say that the design leaves me cold. Box layouts, packed pages and heavy black type smacks of mid-Nineties lad mags. Is it me or is everyone a bit suspicious of a magazine that uses exclamation marks in almost every headline?

But then again, I know better than to doubt the power of a mega-magazine empire will-

THE TIMES VERDICT

'The pace is hectic'

■ IT'S bright, it's confident, there is certainly plenty of information in it and it feels and looks like a monthly read, so there is a strong sense of value for money. *heat* certainly looks different from other British entertainment magazines; overall, the influence of *Q* can be detected, but there is a very American feel to the front half, with lots of red and black type and coloured panels. It is difficult to discern who the target reader is — is it the secretary on her way to work or the hip young kid on the street? The tone is reflective, almost condescending, explaining who The Offspring are, for instance, when every music paper has done them recently, but the pace is hectic: the opening "news" section, with lots of stories and gossip, is frantic and would benefit from some stronger pointers to guide readers to specific areas. The film reviews are entertaining and clearly laid out, but music, videos, books and games are too condensed to have any real authority and, oddly, there are no previews of upcoming tours or events, which adds to the feeling that there is nothing proactive going on. At the back, the TV listings section offers little different from the myriad listings publications already on the market, although the comprehensive film previews are a good idea that should go down well with those too exhausted after reading the magazine to think about anything else.

JAYNE DOWLE, editor of metro

'I find the idea enticing'

■ WE may already have more listings magazines than we need, but who doesn't have the urge to find something new and entertaining to read? If *heat* can provide this, then the fact that it offers TV times as well should be considered a bonus. I find the idea of a new magazine rammed with film, music, books, celebrities, gossip and reviews far more enticing than the predictable fare of most women's magazines, and I am sure I am not alone. *heat*'s throwaway lively feel makes it just the kind of thing I want to devour on the way home from work. The layout is pleasantly garish, and although the pages are almost too busy, they make good use of boxes, side-bars and strong pictures.

The massive weakness, however, is the quality of the writing. Many of the features are shallow and unsophisticated in tone. If *heat* is to attract its target audience of 18 to 40-year-olds it must remember that these readers may have a couple of broadsheets and *The Economist* in their bag as well, *heat* is obviously not similar to be highbrow, but it feels no more grown-up than *Smash Hits*.

BRIDGET HARRISON, assistant features editor

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 481 4481

MEDIA & MARKETING

FAX
0171 782 7826

SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVE RETAIL BACKGROUND ESSENTIAL £25K BASIC + COMMISSION + CAR

CIL International is a design and build organisation whose clients include the major fashion and non-food retailers of the world.

Due to the ever-increasing demand for our products and services, we wish to recruit a further Senior Sales Executive to strengthen our UK sales force.

Aged between 28-40, a retail management background is essential to succeed in this dynamic role where, after an intensive training programme, you will be responsible for generating and servicing your own portfolio of clients.

Self-motivation and excellent communication and organisation skills are some of the essential prerequisites for success in this commercially focused, challenging, but highly rewarding role. Fluency in another language, though not essential, would certainly be advantageous.

To apply send full CV with covering letter to
Kathy Kerr, CIL International Ltd., Fonthill Road, London, N4 3HN.
Tel: 0171 272 0222. Fax: 0171 561 6402.
E-mail: kerr@cil-international.com

HYUNDAI MERCHANT MARINE (EUROPE) LTD

Marketing Assistant

The above dual role has arisen within our European Headquarters, working in the Marketing Department whilst also assisting the MD. Duties include, collating market information internally and externally, preparing the Company's sales literature and co-ordinating its image advertising. Comprehensive knowledge of MS Office along with fluency in written and spoken Korean and English are essential.

We offer an attractive salary and benefits package and interested applicants need to apply in writing enclosing a full CV to: Wendy Harrison, Personnel Officer, Hyundai Merchant Marine (Europe) Limited, 24 Chiswell Street, London, EC1Y 4TY.

HIGH CALIBRE MANAGERS

Age 35 or over? Earning more than £25K
We are looking for mature professional executives who are interested in a new challenge to fulfil their potential. This is your opportunity to join our expanding group of Independent Management Consultants operating throughout the UK. We can offer unlimited prospects and increased earning potential. To find out more send your CV, quoting Ref: T11/99.

Tel: Paula Reed, Director,
CNA International Ltd, Garden Court,
Lockington Hall, Lockington, Derby, DE74 2RH.
Fax: 01208 870707

SUFFOCATING?

If the environment you work in isn't offering the opportunity you need, Touchbase could be right for you. We're looking for people with leadership qualities for customer-focused roles.



To find out more about this unique opportunity, call Octagon now on:
0845 0708000
or email: recruitment@octagonacademy.com Alternatively send your CV to:
Octagon, Holborn Towers 137 - 144 High Holborn, London WC1V 6PL

Octagon

Applicants will ideally be aged 21 - 30

Touchbase

Assistant Editor for the Japanese Market

Direct Image's Japanese section specialises in servicing the Japanese language communications requirements of Japanese companies in Europe as well as British companies involved in the Japanese market. We have a specialist team of Japanese speaking publishing professionals, including editors, copy writers, project managers & designers.

We now have a vacancy for an Assistant Editor with at least five years experience in Japanese magazine production as well as in corporate & marketing communications for the Japanese market.

He/she will join a small editorial team where strong writing, copy-editing, translation, & planning skills are essential. Japanese computer literacy (Mac) is required, as is complete literacy & fluency in Japanese & a high degree of proficiency in English.

Letter & CV to: John Palford MBE,
Direct Image, Karen House, 1-11 Rake's Street,
London, N1 6DL.

BRIDGEWATER SALES DIRECTOR From £30,000 + Bonus + Benefits Stoke-on-Trent

Founded by Emma Bridgewater in 1983 Bridgewater Pottery has achieved a niche position and loyal following at the top end of the gift and tableware market.

We are looking for an able and ambitious professional with wholesale experience in a similar industry. Responsible for developing, implementing and managing future sales growth both in the UK and internationally, the candidate will lead a highly successful sales team and will be a key member of senior management.

Please reply in writing with CV to:

Dick Sale
Bridgewater Pottery Ltd
Eastwood Works
Lichfield Street
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3EJ

TRAINEE PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Start your career in the property world with a six month training period, showing properties in central London for our team of highly successful negotiators. Ideally aged 18-22yrs with a full clean driving licence. £12k plus car. Must live in central London.
Tel: 0171 973 2022

ALL BOX

NUMBER REPLIES
SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED
TO: BOX No.

THE TIMES

NEWSPAPERS
P.O. BOX 3553,
VIRGINIA ST,
LONDON,
E1 9SA

Book Sales

The world's largest publisher of unabridged talking books since 1979, is seeking a Sales Professional for its growing U.K. operation. As a talking book publisher we record all categories of literature for all ages.

The candidate would be responsible for sales to the public library market in the South UK. Must be an excellent speaker. Sales experience not necessary but must have the ability to get results. Training programme and some overnight travel is required. Salary/commission/benefits and benefits package including full car allowance.

Please send a full CV, with salary requirements: David Broad,
Ref: 4, 48 Alameda Street, London EC3A 3PE.

SPORTS HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY £40k OTE (Basic + Commission)

Leading, established Sports Hospitality Company requires successful sales achievers to market and close the highest quality corporate packages at major sporting events. Our Blue Chip clientele demand the very best standard of facilities & service. If you're serious about building a lucrative sales career and your sales expertise can match our product, you will be guaranteed an exceptional package.

Please telephone Richard Kay on 0171 352 7727

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED CLASSIFIED TELEPHONE SALES EXECUTIVES

c£20,000

London

TIMES NEWSPAPERS, publishers of The Times and Sunday Times, are seeking to recruit telephone sales executives with the experience, knowledge and sheer determination to help drive our classified advertisement sales to new heights. You will be enthusiastic, confident and ambitious in your efforts to sell advertising space in the country's fastest growing daily and top selling Sunday newspapers. As part of our 90+ strong team, handling over 5,000 calls a week, you will initially be selling to our private customers and then will progress on to selling to clients within business sectors such as property, motors, travel, recruitment etc. etc.

YOU will have:

- A minimum of 2 years telephone sales experience.
- A knowledge of Microsoft Word.
- Telephone skills.
- Self motivation, tenacity, flair and the ability to work well under pressure.
- Ambition.
- The will to succeed in one of the busiest publishing sales departments in the country.

WE will offer:

- A basic salary of £14,000 per annum + Bonus.
- Four weeks annual holiday, rising to 5 weeks after 2 years.
- BUPA.
- Pension.
- On site gymnasium.
- Full in-house training.
- Excellent career prospects.

If you meet the criteria and are available for work on 15th March 1999, then call and convince our Classified Telephone Sales Manager, Beverley Birch on 0171 680 6102 between 10am-12 noon and 4pm-6pm

Previous applicants need not re-apply.

THE TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

media times

Where does Mirror Group go now?

The problems of Mirror Group Newspapers have not ended with the departure of its chief executive, David Montgomery. Instead, they are just beginning. Montgomery was, ultimately, condemned for not coming up with a coherent strategy for the future of the group that publishes everything from *The Mirror* and *Sunday Mirror* to the *Sunday People* and *Scottish Daily Record*.

Now the chairman, Sir Victor Blank, and other long-serving MGN executives, most of whom were there throughout the Montgomery era, have presumably got to come up with a new strategy. It cannot simply be the obvious one of selling themselves to the highest bidder, or maximising shareholder value, as they put it in the trade. The only clearly identified bidders, the regional newspaper groups Trinity and Regional Independent Media, would face a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation, which could last six months, with no guarantee of success.

So Sir Victor and friends must

devise a plan for independent survival even if they think MGN is too small to compete in a world of international multimedia giants. And they will probably have to do it under fire — not just from potential bidders, but also from the competition, who will try to exploit the instability with every weapon at their disposal. There has already been a skirmish this week in the Central Television area in the Midlands, with *The Mirror* cutting its cover price to 20p and *The Sun* instantly replying with a 15p offer.

Part of Montgomery's strategy was spot-on — the move to become less dependent on the difficult mass-market national newspaper market by buying into the regional press with the acquisition of Midland Independent Newspapers. *The Newsletter* in Belfast and the Derry Journal Group were useful



Raymond Snoddy

additions. The will-they-won't-they par-vane over whether *The Sporting Life* should be relaunched as a general sports daily has been a fiasco and should be resolved as soon as possible. The weight of argument has always backed the view that such a thing will be difficult to pull off in the UK.

The most obvious failure, chronicled mercilessly in the new book by Chris Horrie and Adam Nathan, *Live TV: Tellybros and Topless Darts*, has been MGN's rather sad attempt to get into television. Its last chance to do anything significant was the aborted bid for Channel 5. The 20 per cent stake in Scottish Media Group has become a valuable investment. It can never

be anything else because of monopoly problems in Scotland and legislation barring News International, the owner of *The Times*, and MGN from owning more than 20 per cent of mainstream broadcasters because of the size of their national newspaper circulations. Although the cable channel Live TV became famous thanks to Kelvin MacKenzie and the News Runny — the latter, apparently, has retired — it could never amount to much. There are hopes that Mir-

ror Television will break even later this year but any notion that this is a way into the television market, other than at the margins, is misconceived. More local and regional newspapers, plus magazines and stakes in commercial radio, might be more appropriate targets. The picture has been a little brighter for the core business, the national newspapers, with *The Mirror* increasing its circulation by nearly 14,000, or 0.6 per cent, to 2,338,049 in the six months to December, which goes against the trend. But the *Sunday Mirror* lost 12.6 per cent, or 287,510 copies, and *The People*, down 9.4 per cent (177,844), was not far behind. Even in Scotland circulations are

The other Monty

Not everybody hated the Mirror chief, says Richard Holledge

A very heaven it was to be a journalist with the *Daily Mirror* in the early Nineties. Executives, staff and cronies spent happy hours emptying their office wine cabinets and enjoyed the congenial confines of Vagabonds, a club next to the office.

And as journalists slipped the circulation slipped.

Scores of casual workers did the work of some of the staff. Well, someone had to in order to preserve so civilised an existence. It was fun. A sort of cheerful anarchy where expenses were fiddled merrily, chums given shifts and girlfriends paid handsomely for freelance work. One illustrator was paid £80,000 in a single year by the senior executive with whom she lived.

This was 12 months after Robert Maxwell had taken his inopportune paddle. In late 1991, and the fun was about to end. Enter a figure who could hardly have been in greater contrast to the corpulent crook — the slim, nervy, Presbyterian figure of David Montgomery.

For him the drink, the profligacy, the extravagant man-

power was almost as corrupt as Maxwell's raid on the pension fund. Furthermore, the culture of the place was at odds with the post-Eighties, go-getting aspirational quality so admired and exploited by Montgomery when he edited the now defunct *Today* newspaper. For him the Mirror Group

1992 was to be the scene of Fleet Street's last hurrah. He scrapped the remaining wine cabinets, closed the executive-only canteen and opened the senior staff lift to the workers.

Then he moved with such ferocity that people were left feeling that Maxwell hadn't been such a bad old villain after all. Editors were propelled to the door with unnatural haste: exit the *Daily Mirror*'s Richard Stott, bye bye Bill Hagerty of *The People*, farewell to such luminaries as Alastair Campbell, Anne Robinson and Paul Foot. One hundred casuals were sacked, and some staff found themselves in the invidious position of having to do some work.

Actually, rather a lot of it. As the size of the staff decreased the number of pages rose. There were new sections, pull-outs and inserts.

From the point of view of the City, the cost-cutting was clearly popular. From the journalistic point of view, bigger papers should have meant better. Simultaneous attempts to appeal to younger, professional people were probably correct. Swindon Woman — smart, relatively sophisticated and aspirational — replaced Andy Capp as the role model.

It might have worked if the editors had been up to it. It took Monty about 30 seconds to realise that his appointment to the amiable David Banks was a mistake, and as Banks spent more and more time at

lunch with his admiring hangers-on — rather redolent of the good old, bad old days — he probably realised that he was in the wrong job as well.

The swiftness of the sackings and the undoubted fact that the new Mirror wasn't much better than the old one earned Montgomery a shower of opprobrium from within the trade, led by Roy Greenslade of *The Guardian*, who had been a disappointing Editor of the *Daily Mirror* during the later Maxwell years. Everybody hated Monty. Or did they?

Many of the people who

worked with him on *Today* became admirers. Women profited from his patronage — Tessa Hilton went on to edit the *Sunday Mirror*, and deputise at *The Express*. Amanda Platell was later executive editor of *The Express* on Sunday; Juliet Ashworth is editor-in-chief of Australian *Vogue*; Jane Moore is a columnist on *The Sun*; and Sandra Parsons is features editor of this newspaper.

A Christmas card was produced to celebrate the advance of Montgomery's women staff, with them all in late-Eighties power-suited red (a spoof

which Monty enjoyed hugely). He is more comfortable with women than men because, as a female contemporary put it: "He is actually extremely shy."

There are many journalists who have fond memories of the man, impressed by his leadership at *Today*, where he worked harder than most, was absolutely focused and brought out the best in staff. It must be said though that supporters are in the minority.

Ian Hargreaves, who was the best of the flurry of Editors at *The Independent* during the

tempt. The staff of *The Independent* found Montgomery a useful focus for their frustration as the glory days of 400,000 circulation faded. Costs rose and closure seemed imminent. Montgomery, with O'Reilly's backing, did little to win their sympathy, cutting staff and cutting again.

There was also a distinct manpower problem on the tabloids. In one astonishing spell on the *Sunday Mirror*, there were four editors in as many months. Or was it five?

By the beginning of 1998, there was increasing board-

room irritation with the chief executive. Some directors were disturbed that the Mirror Group had a bad public image, others felt that Montgomery was somehow not the corporate man they wanted him to be.

But then he was never likely to be. He is a maverick, impatient with people who don't share his convictions, reluctant to be the team player.

Right from his arrival in Fleet Street in the Seventies, he drove determinedly onward. He was impervious to the fury of his peers when he was plucked, from obscurity by Nick Lloyd (later Editor of *The*

Express) to become a senior executive on *The People* and then to replace him as Editor of the *News of the World*. He was equally impervious to the hatred — it's not too strong a word — he inspired when he finally reached the top.

People who remember him as the callow, hungry young man of his trainee days remember him for three things: ambition, ambition, ambition.

● The author was night editor of *Today* in 1988-89, features editor of the *Daily Mirror*, 1992-95, and night editor of *The Independent*, 1996.

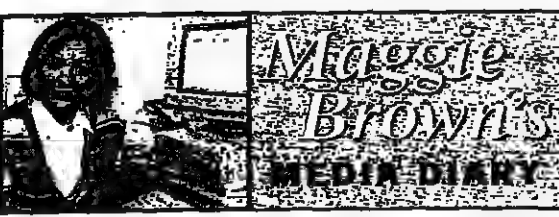


David Montgomery left many enemies in his wake, but journalists who knew him as Editor of *Today* remember his strong leadership and capacity for hard work

News at 5, 6 or 7?

IN A hugely sensitive move, Channel 5 wants to pitch Kirsty Young into the early evening news battle. It is seeking permission to move its much-feted but virtually unwatched Channel 5 News from 7pm to either 6pm, where Young would cheekily challenge the re-launched BBC Six O'Clock News, or even 5.40pm, if the Independent Television Commission regulator agrees. It would then offer audiences a replacement for ITN's popular early evening news, which ends on March 8, to make way for Trevor McDonald's new 6.30pm *Evening News*...

Channel 5's news was first broadcast successfully at 8.30pm, but its shift last year to 7pm — alongside Channel 4 News — has been a disaster, with nightly audiences dwindling to 500,000. BBC1 must be watching nervously: the governors see it as essential to get the Six O'Clock News right. Kirsty Young was heavily wooed for the programme last year, but the BBC finally plumped for the personable but unknown face of Huw Edwards to carry the show... and so many expectations and careers.



■ I HEAR that *The Guardian*'s fearless TV fraud-busters, Michael Sean Gillard and Laurie Flynn, having brought a £2 million fine down on Carlton over the fake documentary *The Connection*, are now investigating two Channel 4 documentaries. This may explain why the easy relationship that developed last year between *The Guardian* and Channel 4 seems to be cooling a bit. I am also told that Clive Jones, the managing director of Carlton (and Fern Britton's estranged husband) received consoling phone calls from the top of the BBC along the lines of "there but for the grace of God..."

■ NEITHER David Elstein nor Dawn Airey, the top two Channel 5 executives, was available to debate on the *Today* programme yesterday with Lady Howe of Aberavon over the Broadcasting Standards Commission's attack on CS's late-night sex programming.

The clear hope is that the BSC's rebuke — Lady Howe's last stand as chairman before

she steps down — will hasten the death of the watchdog organisation, which this week raised eyebrows again by describing a scene in *The Bill* in which a male rape victim was interviewed as "too emotional". But the Independent Television Commission — a regulator with teeth — is also due to censure Channel 5 next week over specific programmes on the sex trade from *Sex & Shopping*, because of their portrayal of prostitution "in a moral-free zone". This apparently breaks the duty on broadcasters to be impartial.

Carlton Television is also in hot water over its 9pm drama series *The Vice*. Last week's opening shots of a young boy in bondage/sexual torture gear, screened just after 9pm and repeated this week in a résumé, has shocked even hardened drama executives (one of them kindly sent the *Diary* a tape).

The programme seemed to ignore all previous ITC advice about making gradual shifts after 9pm rather than plunging down a "waterfall".

■ LAST week's *Diary* revelation that eight leading economists had been paid between £5,000 and £10,000 by the BBC



Channel 5's sexy programmes have landed it in hot water

to write chapters in the *Public Purpose* in *Broadcasting* book, basically supporting the licence fee, was not the whole truth — in some cases payment was at least £15,000. Throw in the costs of publishing and promotion and the BBC must have spent more than £100,000 on this ruse to defuse criticism — sorry, aid contributions to the debate.

■ THREE weeks ago I pointed out that the BBC, supposedly

so accountable to its audiences, had failed to transmit a single *Points of View* since last August, despite viewers continuing faithfully to send in their letters of complaint. A week later I was told that it was returning, in a different form, after Easter.

Now BBC1 has been ordered to rush the programme back next month, format intact — which leaves producers scrambling to see if Carol Vorderman can make it. A pleasing victory.

Jackson stays put

Michael Jackson, the chief executive of Channel 4 and one of the leading potential candidates to be the next Director-General of the BBC, has totally ruled himself out of the running for the job.

It was always unlikely that Jackson, a former Controller of BBC2 and head of BBC Broadcast, would apply directly for the Director-General's job only 18 months after taking control of Channel 4. But, in the television industry, it was thought that it might be a different matter if Jackson received a summons from Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC Chairman.

In an interview with Sky News's *Media Monthly* programme, which will be shown on Sunday, the Channel 4 chief executive unambiguously rules himself out for the BBC position.

"I think I have made it perfectly clear, both in public and internally within the channel, that I am committed to staying at Channel 4," says Jackson, who has already managed to snatch Test cricket from the BBC since his move to Channel 4.

Asked if he would accept a summons to the BBC, even if he did not actually apply for the job, Jackson simply replied: "I think I've made it perfectly clear that I want to stay at Channel 4 and I won't be accepting a summons to the BBC."

In the interview on Sky News, Jackson also criticises the Broadcasting Standards Commission (BSC), which attacked Channel 5 this week for showing explicit sexual content. Two years ago the BSC demanded that Channel 4 broadcast an apology for transmitting Ken Loach's film *Ladybird*, even though it was quite acceptable to the Independent Television Commission. The Channel 4 chief executive

believes that it is now time to have a single regulator of broadcasting content so that programme-makers know where they stand.

The fact that Jackson is ruling himself out must shorten the odds on Greg Dyke, the former chief executive of London Weekend Television and chairman of Pearson Television, who also happens to be a close friend of Sir Christopher.

The other main external candidates for the top job in British broadcasting are David Elstein, the chief executive of Channel 5, who is mistrusted at the BBC because of his opposition to the licence fee, and Richard Eyre, the chief executive of ITV, who does not have any programme-making experience.

Meanwhile, Sky News is drawing up plans to launch its own *News at Ten* — although the exact name has not been decided yet — to coincide with the demise of the ITV news programme.

The 24-hour Sky News, part of BSkyB, an associate company of News International which owns *The Times*, is planning to create a flagship news bulletin at 10pm to try to take advantage of the news gap. The last *News at Ten* bulletin will be broadcast on March 5. After that the main ITV news programmes will be at 6.30pm and 11pm.

The man planning the new programme, which could attract additional resources, is Nick Pollard, the head of Sky News. He is a former Editor and executive producer of ITN's *News at Ten*. The preparations for a flagship news show at 10pm come as Sky News begins celebrating its tenth anniversary — it first went to air on February 5, 1989.

RAYMOND SNODDY

Mellor's mediafest

The former MP is happy to be away from politics, says Raymond Snoddy

Try to get into David Mellor's early 19th-century Docklands house overlooking the Thames on a Thursday morning and you may have to wait. The former Cabinet minister is dictating his hand-written copy for his weekly column on football for London's *Evening Standard*.

"Do you think I should learn to type?" asks the former National Heritage Secretary. Six years after his political downfall, Mellor finds that there are not enough hours in the day to meet all his media obligations, not to mention consultancy for more than a dozen companies.

Apart from filling a page of the *Standard* with trenchant thoughts on everything from referees to TV rights, his print outlets include a column for the *Sunday People* — ironically the paper that exposed his relationship with the actress Antonia de Sanchez — and columns for *Gramophone* and *Classic FM Magazine*.

His broadcasting interests are even more extensive. In addition to regular contributions to *CD Review* on Radio 3, the former Conservative MP for Putney presents 12 programmes a year in the *Vintage Years* series, in which he talks to a contemporary musician.

Then there is *Across the Threshold*, the Classic FM series that introduces listeners to a wider range of classical music, and *Six-O-Six*, his two-hour Saturday football phone-in on Radio 5 Live, which celebrates its sixth anniversary this month.

Charlie Whelan, the former Treasury spin-doctor, used his famous mobile phone earlier this

month to call the programme to discuss his beloved Spurs. The more senior spin-doctor, Downing Street's Alastair Campbell, also called Mellor on *Six-O-Six* to celebrate when his team, Burnley, miraculously scored seven recently. "I cannot tell you how pleasurable it is to drink from so many fountains," says Mellor, a Chelsea supporter. "How many people have the chance to be in the Cabinet and host a football chat show? I'm not saying that this is a career anyone else would want but I still get a kick out of it — and occasionally get a kick from it."

As soon as his ministerial career came to an end the telephone started ringing. The second call offered a six-week trial in the football radio hot-seat vacated by Danny Baker, who had gone off to "better himself in the world of television".

Some friends suggested, rather snuffily, that talking about football was not the sort of thing Mellor should do. "I took the view that there was nothing demeaning about talking about football to an audience in the same way I would in a bar after a game," says Mellor. What would have been demeaning, he believes, is if he had become a political lobbyist, "tugging at ministers' arms in the lobby".

As first, Mellor says, radio was petrifying, much worse than appearing at the dispatch box in the Commons. Terry Wogan suggested that there was no point in trying to prepare — he would be able to do it or he wouldn't. "But I've never been afraid of the microphone and I've always thought that one of the secrets is to talk in a relaxed



Newspapers and radio offered an outlet for the energies of David Mellor after his fall from grace

way to people as if the microphone was not there," says Mellor. Apart from obvious topics such as the performances of individual teams and officials, the programme has dealt with everything from the cost of going to football to how fans are treated abroad.

"How Manchester United fans were treated in Istanbul by Turkish police was first exposed on our programme," says Mellor, who gets a total of 750,000 people listening to some part of his programme.

His interest in soccer led Tony Banks, the Sports Minister and fellow Chelsea fan, to ask him to chair the Task Force into football. It has produced reports on racism in football, on access for the disabled and most recently on trying to encourage football's "grass roots". There have been rows too. Gordon Tay-

lor, of the Professional Footballers' Association, has accused Mellor of using the office "as an extension of his populist rabble-rousing political career". Mellor has accused Taylor of being one of the highest-paid trade union officials — presiding over idle and overpaid members.

He also feels strongly about the Office of Fair Trading case, now before the Restrictive Practices Court, which accuses the Premier League of behaving like a cartel in its TV rights deals with BSkyB — an associate company of News International, which owns *The Times* — and the BBC. Mellor, who will give evidence for the Premier League, will tell the court that 38 per cent of Leicester City's income of £6.5 million comes from the TV deal.

"Who is going to pay £6.5 million to show Leicester games?" he asks. Mellor, 49, is grateful to the media for taking him in when he was "forced to find other outlets for my energies", and says he has no bitterness about what happened to him, apart from one thing — he is still angry that *The Sun* published what he claims to be a "total invention" — that he conducted his relationship with de Sanchez in a Chelsea strip.

Although he still describes himself as a Tory, it is far from clear whether he will stand for Parliament again. "I haven't ruled out politics but I couldn't go back as some foaming-at-the-mouth partisan," says Mellor. "I would have to go back feeling that they wanted mature people with mature opinions who believed in putting their arms around people a bit."

PR caught in the undertow

THE PR agency Financial Dynamics has become a victim of this week's bust-up at Mirror Group and the resignation of David Montgomery, the chief executive. *PR Week* reports that the agency is to be replaced by Finsbury, whose brief will be "turning around recent negative press reports about boardroom struggles". Finsbury's clients include Great Universal Stores, whose deputy chairman Sir Victor Blank is chairman of Mirror Group. *PR Week* looks at how the current flurry of mergers and takeover bids has created lucrative opportunities for financial PR agencies, but the fate of Financial Dynamics highlights the importance of being on the winning side.

■ **TV HAS** secured a 43.3 per cent share of peak viewing in the first three weeks of the year, Broadcast reports. This is well above last year's 37.9 per cent and the 39 per cent target for the year set by Richard Eyre, the chief executive. Eyre told advertisers and agencies that he was confident that the move of *News at Ten* would make the schedule even more competitive.

■ **THE** cider brand Scrumpy Jack is investing £5 million in sponsoring this year's cricket World Cup and the English Test team. Marketing reports. It switched to cricket from sponsoring rugby because of what Paul Butler, the marketing manager, calls "the synergy with one of England's most treasured pastimes and Scrumpy Jack, a classic English product". The deal means cider will become the Test team's official alcoholic drink.

■ **CHANGING FACES**, who's going where? Jane Drabble steps down as director of education at BBC Broad-

cast and Production. Peter Grimsdale, commissioning editor at Channel 4, is to head factual programming for the BBC's independent commissioning group. Derrick Thomson, the acting controller of Grampian TV, becomes controller (Broadcast).

John Sopel, BBC political correspondent, is to become chief political correspondent for BBC News 24, replacing Huw Edwards, who goes to BBC's *Six O'Clock News* (Press Gazette). Jane Bevan, head of PR at the Natural History Museum, will set up her own agency, Debbie Flynn, managing director of the travel-specialist firm Brighter PR, has bought the company from Ansell.

Group (PR Week). Tom Knox and Richard Warren will become joint managing directors of Delaney Fletcher Rosell in place of Mark Lund, who remains chief executive (Campaign).

Vijay Solanki, innovations manager for Bisto Foods, is to be head of marketing at Capital FM (Marketing). Isabel Blackie, of Body Shop, is to be head of marketing for Carphone Warehouse, replacing Ruth Greenwood, who moves to Redwood Publishing (Marketing Week).

■ **MOVING HOUSE**, who's pitching for what? Ben and Jerry's ice-cream seeks agency to handle £500,000 UK launch. ParoelForce Worldwide's £4 million account goes to Ammirati Puris Littas (Marketing). Del Monte is reviewing its media account to prepare for big marketing push (Media Week). Yorkshire Building Society hires Ludgate public affairs to help campaign against demutualisation (PR Week).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

the media interview

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 481 4481

MEDIA & MARKETING

FAX:
0171 782 7826

YOUNG SALES PROFESSIONALS

GERMANY

OTE £ 100K+/Euro 150K+

Exciting Opportunities in International Telecommunications

Are you seeking a fun, dynamic sales environment where hard work and a positive attitude result in a real sense of achievement, excellent financial rewards and tremendous career opportunities? Then we need to talk!

We are a young, innovative telecommunications consultancy with offices in the UK, Germany, Switzerland and USA. Since our formation three years ago we have grown rapidly to become a valued and respected supplier of high-level technical services to the global telecommunications industry in eighteen countries world-wide.

Our culture is based on excellence, integrity, partnership and a commitment to develop our employees to their full potential.

Our success is due to the creation of "Buzz" where talented individuals work with and for each other to achieve team goals.

Our ideal candidates will

- love selling
- be between 22-35 years old
- be extremely ambitious
- speak English and one other language (preferably German)
- possess a sense of humour
- contribute to the team "Buzz"

Successful candidates will be based at the International Sales Headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany. Opportunities ultimately exist throughout the Group's global network.

Have you got the "Buzz", then, please send a C.V. and handwritten covering letter to Tim Legg, Group Sales Director, Ambridge Group, Ziegelhüttenweg 43, D-60598 Frankfurt/Main, Fax: +49(0)69 24 29 79 79. Group interviews will be conducted in London and Frankfurt in early February.

AMBRIDGE GROUP

"The Experience Bank for Global Telecommunications"
London • Frankfurt • Luzern • New York
http://www.ambridge.com

Head of Marketing

Bolton

£40,000 plus benefits

Keogh Ritson
solicitors

Keogh Ritson is one of the largest law firms in the North West and is particularly well known for its substantial insurance litigation department. Due to continued growth, including the impending opening of a new office in Coventry, the firm seeks to appoint a dedicated senior marketing professional.

Working closely with partners and managers, the successful candidate will be responsible for developing and implementing marketing initiatives to further develop the firm's image across its core and niche businesses. As guardian of the brand, the post-holder shall ensure that the ample cross selling opportunities are fully exploited and that the client base is fully leveraged.

Able to work at a strategic, as well as tactical level, the ideal candidate will demonstrate an ability to combine creative flair with strong research and analytical skills. Experience of working within a professional services environment is desirable, as is the ability to nurture and develop a marketing ethos throughout the organisation.

Interested candidates should respond quoting Ref: 1044 to:

Peter Reader, Louis Hampshire Ltd, Moor Hall, Cookham, Berks SL6 9QH.
Tel: 01628427387. Fax: 01628427269. E-mail: peter.reader@clm.co.uk

Louis Hampshire
EXECUTIVE SELECTION

Approved Consultancy

INTERNATIONAL FIELD SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Foxtons require a high quality sales individual to train as a field sales representative within the international business travel market.

A fantastic opportunity exists within this market for an individual with drive, vision and ambition. We are looking for someone with strong presentation and sales skills to promote the services of Foxtons Worldwide throughout the UK and overseas. Individual contribution to growth and success of this exciting project will be recognised.

Foxtons reward excellence with top salary rates comprising a basic and commission, OTE £25-£30k for the first year.

Sales experience and languages an advantage. Ideally aged 21-32 yrs with a full clean driving licence. Must live in central London.

To apply please telephone 0171 704 5038 or e-mail your CV to sarah.shelton@foxa.co.uk

Foxtons

worldwide
apartments

EXECUTIVE SEARCH

£5K-£25,000 + commission + bonus + benefits
Our client is one of the fastest growing executive recruitment houses in the UK, specialising in the provision of finance, IT and operations professionals to some of the largest organisations in the world. They have featured a professional and team playing environment and now seek an addition to their senior search team. You will be a polished, organised individual with at least two years' professional commercial experience in any sector, ideally in a client-facing role. You will pitch for new business as well as present to clients. Your responsibilities will also include identifying and interviewing top individuals at a senior corporate level. Excellent remuneration and career prospects.

Please call Emma Terry on 0171 359 8244 or 01753 698 905 or send your CV to her at Media Contacts (Recruitment Consultants) Ltd, Wexham Way, Wotton SL17 8JQ. Fax: 0171 226 8121

CONTACTS

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER

ENFIELD

John Heath & Co Ltd (a wholly-owned Company of ISA International plc, Europe's largest distributor of Electronic Office Products) is a major player in the UK Office Products industry, and is now offering its re-sellers a unique One-Stop-Shopping service for Office Products and Computer Supplies.

We now require an experienced Regional Sales Manager for our Eastern Region, covering North London and East Angles.

Reporting directly to the Regional Director, you will be responsible for ensuring the growth of an already strong customer base through the external Sales Team. Ideally based in the Enfield catchment area, you should have a minimum of five years' experience in sales and customer care, preferably in the office products or computer supplies trade, or in a high volume product environment. The ability to be always one step ahead of an ever-changing market, together with excellent communication and leadership skills, is essential.

Applications in the first instance should be made, with a comprehensive CV and current salary details, to Mr J D Maddocks, John Heath & Co Ltd, Mark House, Mark Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 2TH.

JOHN HEATH
WHOLESALE

No 7 in Customer Care

As a PLC publisher, we can offer you the most exciting and varied career in advertising sales. If you meet the following:

- Ideally resident in London
- Graduates / Graduate calibre
- Sense of humour

As our 200 strong salesforce can prove, we do offer you:

- Commitment to initial and ongoing career development
- Excellent commission or basic + commission packages
- Up to 25-40% OTE
- Company car and health scheme

0171 315 8843

We have over 90,000 representatives visiting our 40 million customers worldwide. Having reached Britain we are now seeking additional recruits to join our independent.

TEAM OF SALES REPRESENTATIVES

If you are self-motivated and ambitious, able to work on your own initiative, have excellent communication and presentation skills contact us immediately. Previous sales experience beneficial but not necessary. We will provide full training. Join Zepher sales forces and have an exciting and rewarding challenge. For an application form write or phone:

Zepher International (UK) Ltd.
Sales Department Stamford House, 2/4 Chiswick High Road, London W4 1TH.
Tel: 0181 847 3617.

GRADUATES REQUIRED

Leading independent estate agents are seeking talented individuals to join as negotiators to be based in London, the Home Counties, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

The ideal candidate should have an enquiring and commercial mind, the ability to communicate at all levels, team spirit, a full clean driving licence and the flexibility to move within our network as required.

The successful applicants will receive on the job experience, pay our Training Department Plus and attend a series of courses and lectures. If you meet the above requirement, please fax, E Mail or send your CV to:

Sarah Gore
Hamptons International
8 The Quadrant
St Leonards
Surry TW9 1BP
Fax: 0181 940 4857
E Mail: recruitment@hamptons-int.com

The unique power of a picture

The 1998 Picture Editors' Awards show that a whole story can be told in a moment

Study the main picture to the right and you instantly understand what the fuss over the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry was all about. It was taken by the Reuters photographer Paul Hackett last year as the chief suspects emerged from the inquiry. As they reacted to the anger of the crowd, Hackett's photograph demonstrated what sort of men they were.

Were they innocent or guilty? Seeing this superb photograph, showing the hatred and defiance on their faces, the spilling of a fight and the raised fists, most will know what their verdict would be. It was a photograph that confirmed or changed perceptions and which was deservedly judged news picture of the year in the 1998 Picture Editors' Awards sponsored by Kodak and Fujifilm.

Journalism is a hard game demanding quick and ruthless editorial deci-

sions, especially during a World Cup. The irony of the award to Hackett's picture is that it made most front pages for the first edition, only to be swept aside for the "shame" of David Beckham after he committed his foul against Argentina's Diego Simeone and was sent off.

The annual awards evening allows newspaper picture editors a rare opportunity to swap gossip. There were two main themes over the drinks at Guildhall in the City of London. One was digital photography which is now arriving almost universally as was evident in the 6,000 entries from 600 photographers.

"We are seeing the end of film as we have known it, especially with the arrival of the second generation of digital cameras," says *The Mirror's* picture editor Ron Morgans, an early pioneer as the first picture editor of *Today*.

Only recently, picture editors did not get photographs of football matches until at least half-time. Now, using digital cameras, David Viggers, the Reuters picture editor, starts transmitting 11 minutes after kick-off, a crucial saving of time for editors with first edition deadlines of 8pm or 9pm.

Digital adds speed in other ways. Last week Sam Kiley, Africa correspondent of *The Times*, took his own pictures from the war zone in Sierra Leone and sent them back to London almost instantly by using his laptop and a satellite telephone.

Photographers who once had to carry scanners and developing tanks now routinely transmit pictures back to the office from their cars—all they need to do is to put the disk into their laptops, connect to their mobile phones and the pictures are on their way.

The other main theme was the slump in the number of entries for royal photography of the year, mainly because of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the limitations on pictures of Prince



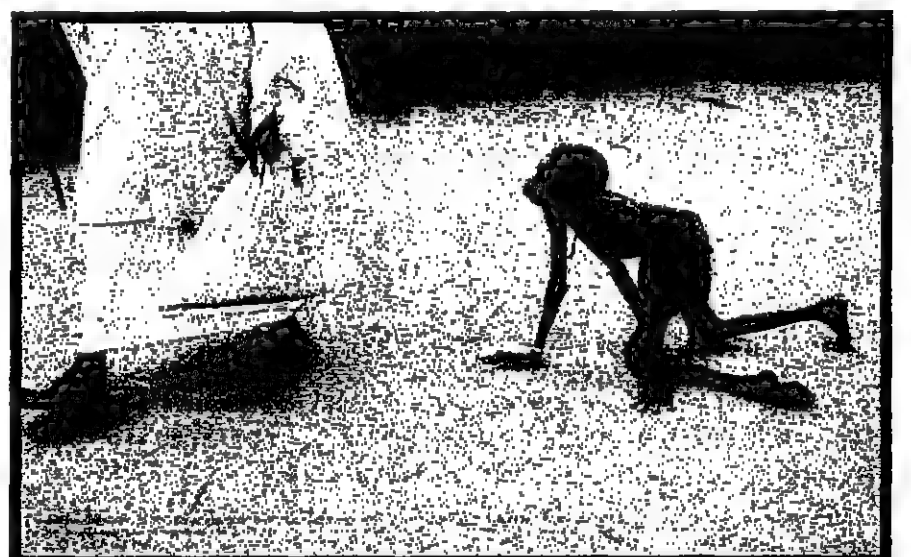
Spoiling for a fight: the news picture of 1998 taken by Paul Hackett, a Reuters photographer, of the chief suspects in the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry

William and Prince Harry, although *The Sun's* picture editor Geoff Webster notes that the Prince of Wales is now making more use of photo opportunities. One reason *The Times's* Marc Aspland won this year's award was that he captured an unusual moment of un-

ever, that when a jockey fell off his horse he captured a rarely seen fit of giggles.

Black and white photography may now be out of fashion but as Tom Stoddart's haunting picture from Sudan (using a Leica M6) demonstrates, it still tells a dramatic story. Stoddart, a Fleet Street veteran, now works for the Independent. Photographers' Group and lives by his wits. He sent himself to Sudan and worked with Médecins sans Frontières.

The portfolio that won him the black and white award was used in *The Guardian* and on nine pages of *Stern*, ten of *Le Figaro* and five of *US News and World Report*. Within eight hours of publication in *The Guardian*, there were 1,200 calls and £40,000 was raised. As Stoddart says, still images retain their power to move. "Old-fashioned" photo-journalism still works. It is an old lesson that new editors should not forget.



Haunting image: Tom Stoddart's award-winning picture of famine in Sudan



Rare Aspland's winning shot

Brian MacArthur

ganised spontaneity. Aspland, a sports photographer, had never photographed a royal before and was not at all pleased when he was ordered to join the ratpack at Cheltenham, races. He was, at the back of the crowd, had to use a long lens and could only see Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's face. That meant, how-

For hacks and cats only

THE great fragmentation of media over the past two decades has left journalists with many more column inches and broadcast minutes to fill. There is no more real news, of course, which explains this week's astonishing coverage of the new Whiskas ad.

Wednesday's lunchtime television news, *Jews at Ten*, a full page in the *Evening Standard*, endless radio talk shows, yesterday's national— you have to hand it to Whiskas's ad agency, M&C Saatchi and the Mars PR machine.

In case you missed it, the Whiskas commercial was spun as the first ad aimed at cats. Apparently, Mars brought in cat behavioural experts to determine what gets cats excited, and decided it would forgoe targeting owners in favour of their pets.

Marice Saatchi's new agency then devised a charming campaign: a tearful ad early in the break asks cat owners to ensure that their pets are watching. There follows a procession of fish, mouse and bird shapes, and shots of a ball of string— anything that ever got a cat excited. Apparently, cats will go bananas.

Brian's news editors certainly have. It is bizarre that journalists, notoriously reluctant to help or even to fraternise with the advertising sales people working for their own organisations, are happy to conspire in cynical campaigns such as this.

But when you're staring at white space, or twinning empty airtime, a story is a story— however manufactured.

■ THE Whiskas campaign is a fine example of R, advertising and hapless journalists working together to promote a brand. But there have been many recent occasions when advertising appeared powerless to improve an image in the face of negative PR.

Hot on the heels of British beef, the millennium, *The Express* and nursing recruitment comes news of a £15 million campaign being planned to encourage more people to save regularly, take out life insurance and join pension schemes. The surprise is that the advertisers funding the Savings and Long-Term Risk Project (SLTRP) are banks and insurance companies who are usually deadly rivals.

Headed by Sandy Leitch, the UK chairman of Zurich Financial Services, the SLTRP is working under the auspices of the Association of British Insurers. The

aim is less to direct consumers to any particular form of investment than to encourage financial literacy and awareness. An admirable project, you might think, although hardly altruistic. But it could easily backfire. It has been reported this week that the Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society has been fined by the Personal Investment Authority and could be forced to pay £10 million in compensation to 50,000 customers who may have been mis-sold ten-year endowment savings schemes. All it takes is for those new financially literate and aware consumers to be confronted by coverage of one more pensions mis-selling case, and it will be £15 million a year down the drain for the scheme.

■ SAD news this week that Body Shop is to scale back manufacturing and axe jobs. The Roddicks are being pushed ever further into the background by Patrick Gour-

lay, the chief executive brought in from Danone.

This is another case (after Marks & Spencer last week) of a retailer that might have benefited from more investment in advertising. For years, the Roddicks appeared to regard media ads as another form of pollution. They have only really dabbled with it in the past three years— too little, too late.

In the 1980s, Body Shop had a point of difference worth shouting about, but when rivals appeared and the likes of Boots cottoned on to "natural" ranges, it needed to reassess its specialness to a new generation. It chose not to do so. Those consumers voted with their feet.

A big advertising campaign is the last thing that Body Shop needs now, though. First, it has to address the wider marketing picture: its philosophy, its product range and the in-store experience of its customers.

■ REGULAR readers will be aware of the two-year dispute between Equity and the commercials production industry. This week Equity capitulated, lifting a ban on its members accepting voiceover work unless under the terms of a 1991 agreement.

The actors' union had little choice. Only 15 per cent of about 15,000 voiceover engagements made between May 1997 and October 1998 were conducted under Equity's terms. Agencies pay well, and there was never going to be a shortage of non-Equity members willing to step into the breach. Eventually, many union members broke ranks. It is an entirely predictable conclusion to the dispute. Proof, in case you had any doubt, that in advertising, money talks.

● Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign

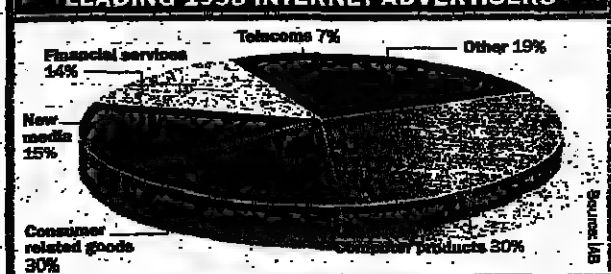
media watch

ALTHOUGH the Internet is perhaps perceived primarily as a source of entertainment, information and communication, recent research suggests that commercial use is about to take off.

Findings by Continental Research show that home Internet use doubled in the past 12 months, to five million users by the end of 1998. Another 2.3 million home users and 1.9 million users in the workplace are expected to sign up within the next six months.

Although the reasons people go online vary, 43 per cent cited shopping as the main incentive. The value of total online sales for 1998 is estimated at

LEADING 1998 INTERNET ADVERTISERS



£230 million. One of the latest reports from Fletcher Research predicts that by 2003 the online shopping market will be worth £3.1 billion. The creation of strong on-

line brands could prove to be the right incentives for customers. In light of this, revenue from advertising on the Internet increased massively during the first six months of 1998.

according to the Internet Advertising Bureau, totalling £7.9 million compared with £8.1 million in the whole of 1997.

The relationship between consumer spending and advertising has always been impossible to pin down, but it is perhaps significant that computer products accounted for most advertising revenue during the first two quarters of 1998, as well as by far the biggest area of consumer spending.

● MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at <http://www.mediatel.co.uk> (0171-439 7575).

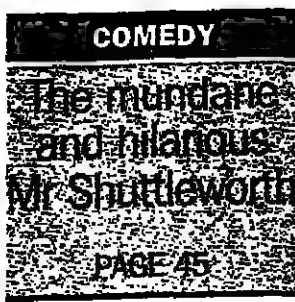
THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE PACIFIC. NOW A DROP IN THE OCEAN.

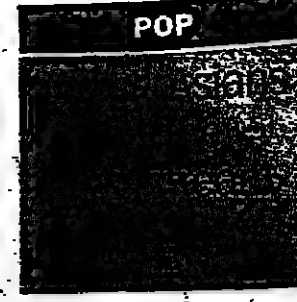
Get up to 60% off hundreds of holiday destinations worldwide. See Travel this Sunday. Suntan lotion extra.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Collected Times



ARTS



leads

As T.S. Eliot observed, the end usually comes not with a bang but a whimper. Yes, I know he was writing about something slightly more central to human existence than the Arts Council of England. But watching the power, the *raison d'être* and even the staff drain away from that sad quango has indeed been akin to observing a much-abused mule whinper in its terminal throes.

What is Gerry Robinson playing at? The Arts Council's chairman is no fool or fall-guy, so one can only assume that he was appointed by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, to do precisely what he is doing: demolishing from the inside an organisation that may have been flawed but did at least have a long and admirable tradition of being politically impartial.

Consider the revolving-door action since the Granada chief arrived at the Arts Council nine months ago. First, the 22 council members were stood down, to be replaced by just ten decorative faces such as the dancer Deborah

We'll miss the Arts Council when it's gone

Bull and pianist Joanna MacGregor. Result? A ruling body mostly unencumbered by awkward memories of what the Arts Council was supposed to be, and to do.

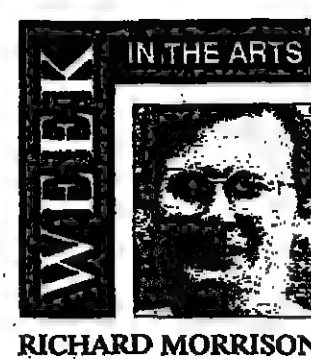
Next, the unpaid expert advisers were cut off from decision-making. The theatre panel, led by the redoubtable Thelma Holt, resigned en masse. She spoke of the Arts Council's new "contempt towards artists". Lady Macmillan, chief luminary of the dance panel, also spoke out and walked out.

The music world was more timid in its protests, but last week all that changed. Britain's orchestras launched a savage attack on the Arts Council for treating world-class outfits such as the LSO and CBSO like provincial bands, while at the same time handing the errant Royal Opera House a handsome increase in subsidy.

Then came the patter of depart-

ing feet — many of them. The music director, Kathryn McDowell, the only Arts Council apparatchik for decades to win friends in the orchestral world, has resigned. Graham Marchant, who was supposed to be mastering the "devolution" of most Arts Council responsibilities to regional arts boards, departed abruptly, less than six months after arriving.

And this week, Phil Murphy, a former political journalist who was given the preposterous title of "director of communications" at the Arts Council, also quit. During his few months in office his main achievement was ghost-writing Robinson's infamous inaugural lecture as Arts Council chairman, a speech that included a tribute to Chris Smith that was effusive even by the fawning standards of Labour groupings. "Good grief," I wrote at the time. "Why don't they



RICHARD MORRISON

just merge the Arts Council with the Government's PR machine?" Well, guess what? Murphy's new job is to be head of communications for the Labour Party. The lad certainly knows how to play the game in Tonyland, doesn't he? Where does all this leave the

Arts Council? Bereft of experienced staff, shorn of power, it now faces a challenge from Quest, a sinister new peeping-tom quango that will "monitor standards and efficiency" in the arts and answer directly to Smith's Culture Department. It's hard not to conclude that the Arts Council has been deliberately reduced to this point of existence by a Government that wants hands-on control of the arts and no focus of resistance to its wishes.

What does that matter, you may ask, as long as the artists themselves retain their freedom of expression? After all, the rest is mere bureaucratic detail, isn't it?

Alas, I wish it were that innocuous. But the notion of politicians controlling which artists get subsidy is dangerous at the best of times, and particularly so when the politicians are as renowned for rewarding cronies as this lot are.

Already there is a notable reluctance in the arts world to speak out in public against any government policy for fear of reprisal. Yes, it's pathetic. But it explains why the Arts Council is disappearing not with a bang but a whimper.

One of music's most humane figures died this week. Robert Shaw, was probably the greatest choral conductor of this century. His impeccably trained choir — built up in a career that spanned six decades — thrilled even that grumpy old perfectionist, Toscanini. Singers in Georgia and Texas thought nothing of driving hundreds of miles each week to attend his rehearsals, which frequently took on the burning intensity of revivalist prayer meetings.

But he was much more than an inspiring musician. He was a courageous idealist, establishing choirs with no racial barriers several decades before it was politically correct, or safe, to do so. And — like Britten in Suffolk or, more recently, Rattle in Birmingham and James MacMillan in Glasgow — he was a superb missionary for music at the grass roots. He believed that top-notch performers, writers and artists had a civic duty to become role models, intellectual leaders and catalysts of the cultural life in their communities.

"The most important thing in the arts is your own backyard," he once told me. "Unless artists work their way into the community fabric they are not being fully used."

At a time when people in Ankara, Anchorage and Andover all watch the same films, listen to the same pop albums and flick listlessly through the same television sitcoms, such idiosyncratic parochialism may seem quaint and outdated. But if the alternative is a bland homogenisation of culture into one dreary global custard, give me quaint any day.

Cabaret of the insane

The buzz inside a sold-out Sadler's Wells and the lengthy queues for returns outside were proof, if such were needed, that in the world of the theatre the German choreographer Pina Bausch is a goddess. It has been 17 years since her last visit to London and the faithful were determined to worship at the feet of the most influential dance-theatre artist in Europe.

Viktor, the 1986 work she brings to London (with the help of BMW Group), is a showcase for Bausch the director, not Bausch the choreographer. In a production that lasts three and a half hours there are scant minutes of dance. Yet these moments are thrillingly vibrant. Bausch animates her large ensemble in waves of witty and thrusting movements that embody perfectly the dream-like images she seeks to portray. Movement is the exclamation point, the glorious adjective that pulls her ideas into tight focus.

And focus is something Bausch needs. She doesn't build theatre in a progressive narrative sense, rather she spews it out in a brilliantly conceived stream of consciousness, constructing a collage of strong feelings acted out in a kind of marathon revue performed by insane dolls. Text, dance and everyday



DANCE

movement combine in an obsessively repeating patchwork of anger, frustration and futility — her take on the human condition.

The liberation of Viktor is that it's not about anything, yet the emotions it creates touch everyone in a most personal way. The suffocation of Viktor is that it drowns you in an excess of emotion, circling round itself as if caught in a narcissistic loop. Get sucked into Bausch's universe and you will be hooked for hours; lose it and you will suffer interminable boredom.

The piece is set on a magnificent, designed stage (credit Peter Pabst). On three sides loom towering walls of earth. It could be a giant playground in a post-apocalyptic wasteland; it could be an anti-hill magnified into a mountain; or it could be a freshly dug grave.

The 30-strong company play their parts seemingly unaware of the man above who is shovelling earth down onto the stage. The dancers are manipulated by



Puppets in a crazy universe: the dancers of Pina Bausch's company. Tanztheater Wuppertal, in Viktor

Bausch like unwitting puppets: she condenses them to a Sisyphus-like existence, locking them into emphatically repetitive acts which they perform with a manic enthusiasm. An hysterical man sobs for coffee; a harried woman glances with horror at her watch and races off to a mysterious appointment; one

woman is groomed like a horse while another, in a sequined dress, washes the floor. The game is sometimes wearying, as is Bausch's endless fascination with the accoutrements of female glamour — high heels, fur coats, tight skirts, lipstick — yet her work is shot through with a compensating compassion. Finally,

it is the magnificent actor-dancers who make Bausch's case, each a unique presence on stage. They may be crazy, they may be senseless, they may be doomed, but as rats in the laboratory of Bausch's mind they are undoubted stars.

DEBRA CRAINE

A fresh take on togetherness

Character A sits in a chair, reading the sports pages. Character B stalks irritably in. They talk about making the evening "All right we'll stay in," says B in huffy, married tones. "You'll read the paper, I'll watch the telly, you'll watch the telly, then we'll both watch the telly. And you won't say anything."

A sardonic picture of suburban wedded bliss? Not exactly. A is Peter Sullivan's slightly yobbish Tony, and B is Andrew Lancel's winningly dissatisfied Andrew. Like the other six "young men" at the Almeida, they belong to what I would call the gay community, were that not a term that the author, Peter Gill, calls into question. Give or take the occasional yearning to have children or be conventionally "male", they have plenty in common, with heterosexuals — and plenty out of common with each other.

The play is marked by a fast turnover of scenes, lots of brusque, vivid, wryly funny dialogue, fine acting, and the spare staging one associates with its director, who is also, Peter Gill. On come John Light's nervy, bookish Michael, and his pick-up, Alec Newman's rough, streetwise Stewart. Then it's over to Jeremy Northam's sensitive, possessive David and Andrew Woodall's Christopher, a married man angry at just about everything, down to his wife's wish to send their son to a school "for very gifted parents".

Andrew and Tony complete the bill, along with two unattached characters: Sean Chapman as the play's resident *rationaliser*, guru or Gill, Danny Dyer as a dim, needy



THEATRE

boy drifter who prefers fetiche with men rather than women because men are more industrious.

Though Chris has a fling on the side, and Andrew leaves Tony, the play is less strong on action than on argument, confrontation, riffs that sometimes escalate into violence. These men are always strenuously trying to define what their relationships should and shouldn't be.

"Are we supposed to believe like some couple?" asks exasperated Christopher. "We're faking the shipwreck of a fake straight relationship," decides distressed Andrew. "This isn't a marriage," snaps Tony. "True — but if they aren't married, a couple, or pseudo-straight, what are they?"

The answer inevitably comes from Robert. There is no "gay sensibility". Homosexuals unconsciously range from quiet sissies to "disco doli" to raging radicals publicly "nailing their forelocks to pieces of wood" and beyond. A relationship means finding "someone to share the torture with". Some will find the message too explicit or too depressing or both. But I, the least that can be said for *Certain Young Men* (sponsored by T&T) is that it is articulate, arresting and as freshly performed as anything in town.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS Sadler's Wells
Pina Bausch
Viktor
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

THEATRES

ADAMS 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

THEATRES

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

ALMAHAT 0171 583 8300 (p40)
English National Opera
Tosca 7.30 the Barber of Seville
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30

Heads you lose, Charles ...

GALLERIES:

An anniversary celebration reveals early spin-doctoring, says John Russell Taylor

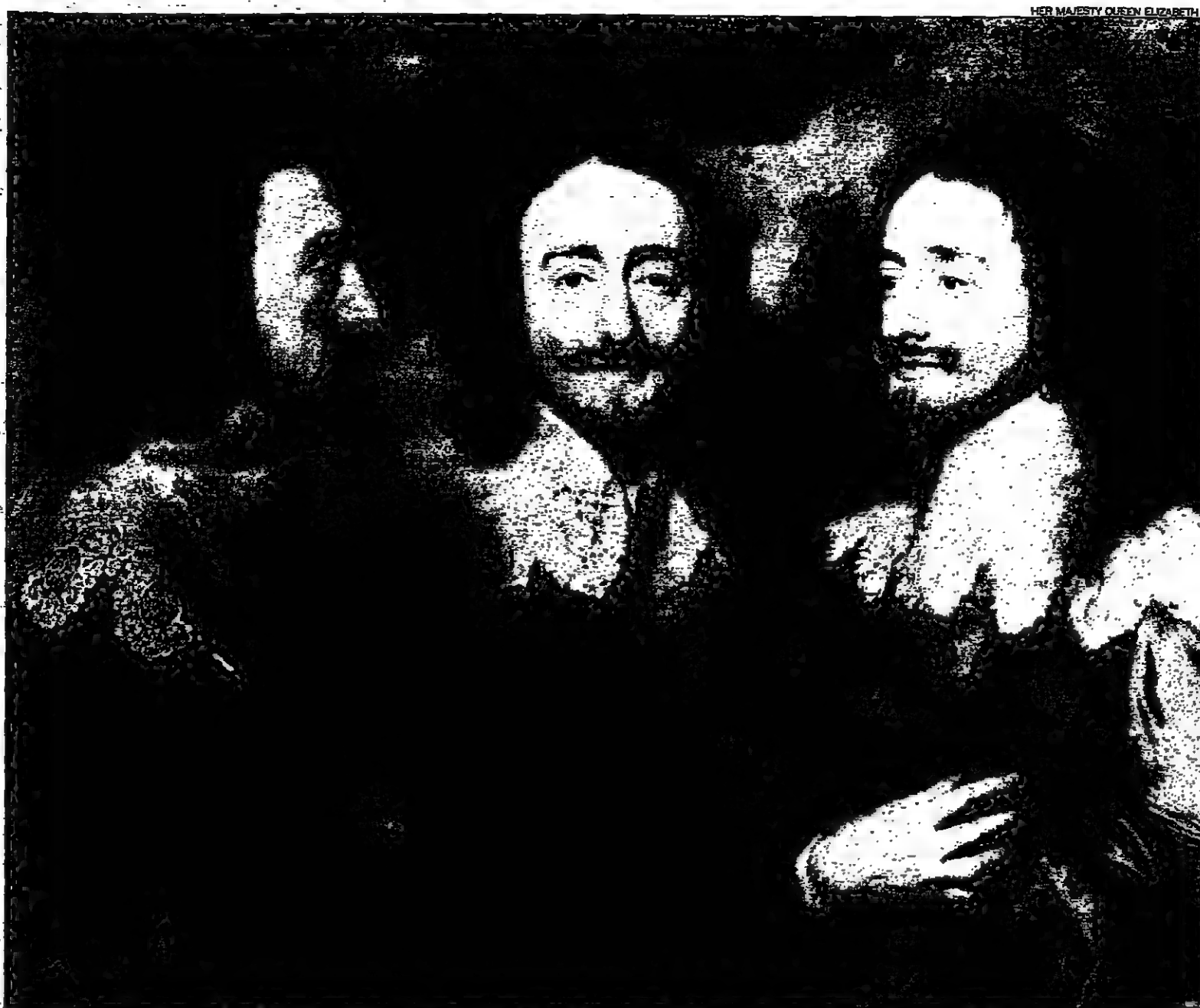
Though the blame for image-manipulation and "spin" is generally placed on the shoulders of the late 20th century, you don't need to penetrate history very thoroughly to realise that these black arts have been with us since the dawn of time.

Anyone who doubts this should check out *The King's Head*, the new show at the Queen's Gallery. The King in question is Charles I, and the occasion of the show is the 350th anniversary of his execution, which falls tomorrow.

Other monarchs, of course, went in for image-building. Louis XIV, for instance, was a genius at angling his image to centralise France under his personal rule. And as the recent film pointed out, the secret of Elizabeth I's power was her deliberate reconstituting of herself as a Virgin Queen and untouchable icon.

With Charles, though, things are not so clear-cut. For one thing he was beheaded — deservedly, his Roundhead opponents said; as a holy martyr according to his surviving Cavalier supporters. Both sides used visual imagery to validate their points of view, and there was a veritable war of broadsheets and pamphlets, frequently illustrated with suitable images of the monarch — although it hardly seems to have occurred to any of the opposition to use caricature in the way that satirists of the Georges would.

One thing we seem to be in no doubt, and that is what Charles looked like. The engraved portraits, however crude and debased, are all agreed on the principal features, and in fact mostly go back to just two or three painted portraits, particularly the definitive images by Van Dyck. The existence of these later came about through Charles's eagerness, early in his reign, to impose a picture of himself on the public, and his good sense in employing an artist of Van Dyck's skill and stature to brand that image on the public imagination.



The slightly melancholic expression in Van Dyck's triple portrait of 1635 confers an air of tragic majesty on Charles I even 14 years before his execution

This even applied to the representation of the King by another first-rate artist: Bernini, whose bust of Charles dates from 1635. In carrying out Queen Henrietta Maria's commission, Bernini depended for his likeness on Van Dyck's triple portrait *Charles I in Three Positions*, now one of the most famous pieces in the Royal Collection, but virtually unknown until the early 19th century.

Van Dyck not only fixed the image of Charles, for ever, but in the process changed the whole British portrait tradition. One can physically see the moment of change in the double portrait of Charles and Henrietta Maria painted by Daniel Mytens in 1630-32, and later transformed by Van

Dyck, who completely repainted the figure of the Queen on the right. There is no doubt that Van Dyck was required to make the unprepossessing original image of the Queen (preserved in print reproductions and an early copy of the painting) into something decidedly more glamorous. He might also have modified the picture of the King, who under Mytens's brush looks slightly sneering, into the noble, faintly sad figure of later portraits, but for some reason he did not.

It may be suspected that hindsight confers this air of tragic majesty on Charles as painted by Van Dyck and engraved by Holbar. But apparently not, Bernini observed,

when he saw the Van Dyck triple portrait made specifically as documentation for him, that the King seemed to have a slightly melancholy aspect. The Bernini bust (destroyed in the Whitehall Palace fire of 1698) appears from the early copy in the exhibition to have retained this melancholy, but to have balanced it with a Baroque swagger. If this Charles does not look particularly like a saint, he could quite possibly turn out to be a martyr.

The question of whether, strictly speaking, he did or not is understandably sidestepped by the present exhibition. But then, even Charles's enemies seem to have given credit to a gallant loser: remember Marvell's "He nothing common

did or mean Upon that memorable Scene". Clearly in spite of everything the heroic image struck nowhere here would we get the slightest inkling that Charles I was the shortest English monarch (while his son Charles II was, oddly, the tallest). Even in the 17th century, the opposition did not stoop to remarking on the plight of the vertically challenged.

Indeed, perhaps the show could do with a little more scurrility. After all, isn't the point about the English Civil War surely that the Roundheads were right but repulsive, while the Cavaliers were romantic but wrong?

● *The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, SW1 0171-859 1371, daily 9.30am-4.30pm, until May 3*

Strategic mismatch

CONCERTS

One thing the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra does not need, as it struggles for financial survival, is a programme as ineffective as Petr Altrichter's latest compilation. Of course, if he wants to perform Martinu's *Rhapsody-Concerto* for viola and orchestra, and if he has access to the soloist for it, he should do it. But an unfamiliar work like that has to be presented in a persuasive context rather than in the uninformative kind of jumble that the public instinctively recognises and avoids.

The work would have been strategically better placed before the interval rather than at the end, and it could usefully have been preceded by another work written by a Czech composer in America, like Dvorak's *American Suite*. If Tabea Zimmermann was to perform another concerto, rather than a faceless number by one of the num-

ous Stamitz family it should have been, say, Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* with the RLPO leader as joint soloist. After the Mozart, Brahms's *Serenade in A major*, with its prominent role for orchestral violas, would have made an appropriate ending.

Anyway, what the sparse audience in the Philharmonic Hall actually heard at the beginning of the concert was Dvorak's *Wind Serenade in D minor*, which was acceptably performed but contextually pointless. The Mozart they got after the interval was the "Paris" Symphony in D, K.297, which was brightly done but — given Altrichter's exaggerated signals to an orchestra that only needs to be conducted — with little chance of subtlety in interpretation. Zimmermann's playing in Karl Stamitz's *Viola Concerto in D* was too highly coloured and elaborated for the modest score it really is.

The *Rhapsody-Concerto*, on the other hand, found both soloist and conductor at their best. Although it betrays in its later stages Martinu's characteristic impatience to get on with the next work in the catalogue, and although it is fairly shapeless in construction, it is redolent with melodious nostalgia. Zimmermann's elegiac sound, Altrichter's identification with Martinu's Czech sentiments and the RLPO's sensitivity in accommodating itself to both of them combined to inspire affection of a kind rarely associated with this composer.

GERALD LARNER

First prize for charm

When the American baritone Marcus DeLoach walked off with the first prize at the first Wigmore Hall International Song Competition in 1997, it was clear that the jury and audience had been impressed as much with his skills of communication and showmanship as with his musical artistry. After all, he beat a busily employed English opera singer and a young German Lieder specialist.

And it was DeLoach's love of his audience which won the day again when he returned to London to give his debut prize-winning recital. His wooing was shameless in his encores: having discovered that Henry Higgins lived just round the corner from the Wigmore Hall, he regaled his audience with *On the street where you live*, then went on to patter about lying awake with a dismal headache in highly polished Gilbert and Sullivan English.

Before this DeLoach had repeated one of his prize-winning songs, Aaron

Copland's *I bought me a cat*, at the end of an entertaining group of less well-known American pieces. Copland's contemporary, Randall Thompson, was introduced by his *Velvet Shoes*, the voice treading a hymn-like path through white snow and white silence. And Charles Ives's *The greatest man* was preceded by a little-known song by Richard Hageman: a mock-heroic setting of G.K. Chesterton's *The Donkey*.

In all these songs DeLoach worked overtime to kindle some response in a rather solemn audience. They had been charmed by five songs by Chausson which had gone before. Here DeLoach's clearly focused, effortlessly inflected baritone, with its ringing high register, had confirmed his sympathy for and ease in the French repertoire.

But if DeLoach's vocal concentration had been matched by closer verbal focus, then these songs and especially his preceding Mendelssohn group would have been twice as eloquent. Despite Thomas Bagwell's vivid accompanying, DeLoach's German tends to sound learnt by rote: verbal and musical rhythm is too laid-back, and weak vowels make for weak expression. DeLoach is just 24, and only three years out of Juilliard. He has been busy on the boards at St Louis; but there is still time for more intensive coaching in Lieder, and perhaps some time out spent exploring Germany or Austria with his prize money.

HILARY FINCH

Thoughts of Sheffield man

We all know a John Shuttleworth: he's one of those blokes from back home who are always happy to chat for a while and share the intimate details of the new back route they discovered while trying to avoid a traffic jam. A bit of a card but totally humourless, he's one of life's last great optimists with a vocabulary derived from *Which?* magazine and those little paper inserts that come wrapped around bottles of prescription medicine.

But John Shuttleworth has got something a bit more to him, something a bit special, and that's showbiz. Not only is he a keen student of acting; a skill derived from years of first-hand experience watching television; but he is also regular organist at Ken's Karvery, whither we are cordially invited to stuff ourselves silly on John's Bon Temp buffet.

Shuttleworth's creator, Graham Fellows, has constructed an impeccably believable character, and his portrayal of the earnest Yorkshireman is as affectionate as it is comic. Funny as much of the material is, there are brief moments when one realises that Fellows is playing on our arrogance and tendency to patronise the non latte-drinking, non CD-playing, non e-mail-using elements of this world.

John Shuttleworth is precocious man par excellence. He can't stop himself from using every available function on his electronic keyboard, just because they're there. He's proud of his Austin Ambassador 14-reg —

COMEDY

Ken's Karvery Bloomsbury

"It's a car that I revere", and when he tells us that his friend Tony dreams of being a paramedic, he thinks for a minute, then says: "Mind you, who doesn't — lovely!"

Of course, for the customers at the Karvery, it's the songs that we've come to hear. Ken Worthington may be battling it out with a Primus stove backstage trying to prepare our starter, but we won't feel satisfied until we've heard such bathetic classics as *Life is Like a Salad Cart* (You only get one visit), *I Want To Be a Community Leader*, and *I'm a Modern Man, I Do the Washing Up*. Apart from the *Frying Pan* (Because that's best left to soak, isn't it?)

In the harsh modern world, John Shuttleworth is a character to be cherished; polite, positive, charming and still convinced that Sheffield is the centre of the modern world (although he might consider moving to Skelgess for the right cash incentive). I have never been to a show that has inspired the audience to throw Toffee Crisp bars on to the stage at the end, but then, there are precious few comedians who could come out with a line like "It's like that millennium bug is in my organ" without even a wiff of double entendre, so he probably deserves it.

HETTIE JUDAH

"BRACING, INSPIRED, OPULENT, GORGEOUS, DELICIOUS." This extraordinary film constantly surprises.

DAVID GAVIN - THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

"...rousing, brilliant, a joy to see."

RAY BRADBURY - THE TIMES

"...a razor-sharp sense of humour. Watch, listen and learn."

NICHOLAS...

"In short, it rocks..."

a brave, beautiful film."

HOME

"...savage stuff."

BARRY NORMAN - THE LANCET

"...truly a terrific film."

JOHN...

"Stabs its teeth... like a Bohemian with a raw steak."

WILLIAM...

"Intelligent, funny, moving and above all brave."

THE...

WHICH HEAVY... **BULWORTH** WARREN BEATTY HALLE BERRY
NOW SHOWING AT SELECTED CINEMAS

ARTHRITIS

AGONY RESTRICTION TENDERNESS HEAT RIGIDITY INCAPACITY TORTURE IMMOBILITY SLEEPLESSNESS

ARTHRITIS IS JUST A WORD...UNTIL YOU KNOW HOW IT FEELS

brooding and deforming bones! Destroying cartilage... Fusing joints. Attacking muscles, blood vessels, organs and nerves! Arthritis is a terrible disease afflicting eight million people in Britain today. Children and young adults, as well as the old. It will only be defeated by research.

The Arthritis Research Campaign will go on until the cure for arthritis is found. Last year we directed sixteen million pounds into research. Money you gave us and Willed us to use. Currently 350 research programmes are being funded by our Campaign with your help.

Arthritis Research Campaign

ANYONE CAN GET ARTHRITIS. YOU CAN HELP US FIND THE CURE

Our research work depends on your generosity

I would like to make the following donation to the Arthritis Research Campaign. Please make your cheque payable to ARC

£10 ☐ £15 ☐ £25 ☐ Other £

Or please complete your credit card details below:

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX ☐ SWITCH ☐ DELTA

CARD NO:

EXPIRY DATE: SIGNATURE:

☐ MR ☐ MRS ☐ MISS ☐ MS INITIALS:

SURNAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

TEL:

Please return to: Arthritis Research Campaign, Freepost Mid 466, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 9ER

LISTINGS

Haitink at the Festival Hall

ARTS

POP INTERVIEW

Tequila with Terrorvision

If ever there was a rock band born to have a huge hit single with a song called *Tequila*, it's Terrorvision

Lads in the best of spirits

Altogether, now: 'Tequila! It makes me happy! Con tequila it feels... fine! Con tequila when the doors are opened, and con tequila when they're calling 'Time'. That's the curse of tequila.'

The lyrics to the week's No 2 single aren't just idle conjecture or rock-star faffing: the Bradford four-piece Terrorvision speak from a position of academic knowledge. It was tequila that led to lead singer Tony Wright breaking both his ankles in Madrid.

Apparently the Hard Rock Cafe there has a particularly covetable H in its neon sign and, while scaling the building in an attempt to detach the letter, Wright fell and snapped both his ankles.

"I thought I was safe," he ex-



Terrorvision are honoured to have been made members of the Tequila Society. They meet every Thursday in Leeds and drink 250 bottles a week



CAITLIN MORAN

plains, "because I was attached to the 'H' and the 'H' was attached to the building. I didn't realise that it would no longer be attached to the building if I removed it."

Tequila wasn't going to be a single, but following a concerted campaign by Zof Ball on the Radio 1 Breakfast Show, its Fatboy Slim-esque remix is now a palpable hit, and will appear on stage night compilation tapes and Friday night jukeboxes from now until God calls 'Time'. Given that they would have been No 1 if Giff's grungey *Pretty Fly (For A White Guy)* hadn't pipped them in the race for the post, it's magnanimous of Terrorvision not to hold any grudge against their American rivals.

"Well, no. I like *Pretty Fly* myself," Wright muses. "If it were Cher or somebody like that I'd be right cheesed off, but it feels right that it should be us and them. I can't remember the last time two rock bands were together at the top of the charts. It doesn't happen that often. It's like the total eclipse of the Sun or something, innit? People travel to see it."

Ensnared in a smug, flashy West London hotel, recovering from the previous night's NME party, the band are wryly enjoying fame's accoutrements. "I can't remember a time I was so drunk as last night," Wright says — something you feel must be quite a statement in his case. "People kept giving us tequila."

"We don't know why," guitarist Mark Yates says, looking bewildered.

"We ended up at Space's hotel, and I still don't know how," Wright continues. "I woke up and there was blood all over the sheets. It had come out of my nose. I think my pillows were very hard."

It's been a long, hard, enjoyable slog for Terrorvision. They reflect nostalgically on the early days of the group, when they used to meet on Tuesdays and pool their pay

cheques to pay for rehearsal time. "We all used to put £15 in the kitty, and if there was anything left, we'd spend it down the pub," Yates recalls.

"The pub is underestimated as a place of learning. For instance," he says, leaning across the table, "if you get a piece of liver, and put it on a plate in the fridge near to a glass of milk, in the morning the liver will have moved, of its own accord, next to the milk. Now, where else are you going to learn that but from a productive night down the pub?"

"Carol Vorderman would never tell you that," Leigh Marklew, the band's golfing bassist, points out. "Or any of them *Watchdog* people."

Terrorvision are everything a band should be: aside from

their infectious, AC/DC-meets-Madness pop, they're familiar: enough with the concept of Holding Down Proper Jobs to realise that being in a band is a hoot, and so in love with rock's Hanna-Barbera logic that they try to make every gig an event.

On *Tequila*, Wright explains, beginning a very long anecdote, "we got a load of schoolchildren to do the backing vocals. Our producer Edwyn Collins got six of his daughter's schoolmates for the 'Tequila! It makes me happy!' bit."

"But we obviously can't get those children to tour with us — the amount of pop they drink would cripple us financially. So we were thinking

about getting six girls from the audience to join us onstage every night, chosen in the Willy Wonka Way."

"What's the Willy Wonka Way?" Shifty, the drummer, asks obligingly.

"Glad you asked me, Shifty," Wright says. "The Willy Wonka Way is to issue six special Gold Tickets, and whoever has them can take their place onstage with us, as that night's Terrorvision Tequila Girls. They'll get to shout 'Tequila' and everything down a microphone. If I'd been allowed to do that when I was 16, I'd have been made up."

Given that Terrorvision have three albums of boozey, infectious riffs under their belts, as well as the hit singles *Oblivion*, with its doo-wop hook, and *Perseverance*,

where Wright hollers about the "Whales and dolphins" are they a little nervous about now known as the *Tequila* band?

"Gerroff. Are you [Blang] Yates responds, boggle-eyed. "It's brilliant! We've been made honorary members of the Tequila Society: they meet every Thursday in Leeds and drink 250 bottles in a night. And these are our people now. We feel right special."

"You never really get tired of tequila, anyway," Marklew adds, sagely. "It may treat you bad in the mornings, but you always come back to it. Like I had but exciting lover. Tequila will never lose its allure for me."

Tequila is released by EMI/Total Vegas records, as is the album *Shaving Peaches*.

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marië Hargie

LONDON

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: Bernard Haitink conducts the LPO in Mozart's Jupiter Symphony followed by Bartók's one-act opera *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*. With István Kertész as the librettist, Judith and Viktor Kovács as her aristocratic nobleman husband. Festival Hall (0171-630 4242). Tomorrow, 7.30pm. £

PICASSO AND PHOTOGRAPHY: The Dark Mirror: An exhibition exploring the influence of photography on the development of the Cubist artist. Over 300 items including self-portraits, landscapes and experimental works are on show, as are a number of related paintings and drawings. Barbican Art Gallery (0171-638 8881). Opens today. £

BEETHOVEN CYCLE: Louis Lortie continues his series of recitals performing all Beethoven's piano sonatas. Here the Canadian virtuoso tackles a programme which includes sonatas in D (Pastorale) and C (Moonlight). Wigmore Hall (0171-625 2141). Tomorrow, 7.30pm. £

ELSEWHERE

EDINBURGH: The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Taku Yuasa gives an atmospheric performance of Brahms's magnificent Sixth Symphony. Greyfriars Kirk (0131-588 2018). Tonight, 7.45pm.

MANCHESTER: Hector Zaraspe choreographs his troupe of Argentinian dancers in *Tango Pasito*, a



Photos by Picasso go on show at the Barbican

last performance of emotionally charged sensuality.

Bridgewater Hall (0161-607 9000). Sunday, 4pm and 7.30pm. £

OXFORD: The brilliant young Russian pianist Boris Berezovsky lays on a musical banquet of three large Romantic pieces from his native land. On the menu are Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition and Night on a Bare Mountain, and Rachmaninov's Variations on a Theme of Chopin. Sheldonian Theatre (01865 799900). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
House full, returns only □ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

THE FOREST: Alan Ayckbourn adapts Chekov's sadistic 1870 comedy, with Michael Fossé's impoverished actor trying to impress his rich aunt (Frances de la Tour). Anthony Papp directs. Lyttelton (0171-492 3000). £

OKLAHOMA! National Theatre cast includes Maureen Lipman in parable of Trevor Nunn's Rodgers and Hammerstein. Lyceum (0171-416 6039).

BAD WEATHER: Robert Holman's discursive play where a French nanny (Susan Engel) resolves some problems in a Middlesex tower block. Odd yet haunting. P&O (0171-438 8881).

THE MEMORY OF WATER: Alison Steadman, Samantha Bond and Julia Sawalha star in Streptch Stephenson's acclaimed drama of female memories. Terry Johnson directs. Vaudeville (0171-538 9587).

THE STREET OF CROCODILES: Welcome return for Theatre de Complicite's inventive staging of Bruno Schulz's magical recollections of pre-War Poland. Caissons (0171-494 5041).

VASSA: Sheila Hancock heads a terrific cast, playing the family matriarch in Gorky's strong drama. Howard Davies directs a new version for the Almeida season. Albany (0171-389 1700).

BRIEF CANDLES: Denis Quail plays various European celebrities who let his pet cat (Celia White) in the 1980s and figured in her posthumously published diaries. State Quail directs. New End (0171-794 0022). £

CERTAIN YOUNG MEN: Peter Gill directs Jeremy Northern, Sean Chapman and six others in his exploration of the way today's men live together. Almeida Theatre (0171-389 4404). £

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15): Rippling rom about the struggling upstart William Shakespeare, with a cracking script by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard. Gwyneth Paltrow excels as the Bard's cooing-dreaming muse. John Madden directs.

STEPHEN (12): Squallid divorce movie with Julia Roberts as the hapless new woman in Ed Harris's life, and Susan Sarandon as the terminally ill ex-wife. The two sport kids, Jena Malone and Ben Affleck, give it a high-kick ending. Fastidiously sincere movie by Chris Columbus.

VERY BAD THINGS (18): Peter Berg's macabre comedy thriller involves buddy movies and smug suburban lifestyles by chomping up half the cast. Demonic performance from Christian Slater and Cameron Diaz.

TWO GIRLS AND A GUY (15): Robert Downey Jr plays a charming creep who strings along Natasha

Wagner and Heather Graham. James Toback's chamber piece on sexual identity promptly falls on its sword when both girls fail to crush him.

A SIGN AND A WOMAN (PG): Claude Lelouch's whimsical French seaside romance won two Oscars in 1988. Apart from the scullery performance of Anouk Emile and Jean-Louis Trintignant, it's hard to see why.

CURRENT

HILARY AND JACKIE (15): Anand Tucker's controversial biopic about the late Jacqueline du Pré. With Emily Watson and Rachel Griffiths.

PRACTICAL MAGIC (12): Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman star as witches in a gentle soap about sisters with latent attraction. Too sweet to digest.

BILMUTH (18): Warren Beatty's disillusioned senior suddenly discovers a taste for telling ugly home truths. A wonderful new comic age on political manipulation and mendacity.

Well-matched pair

MARC JOHNSON AND ERIC LONGSWORTH

If Trees Could Fly (Intuition INT 3228 2)

IN THE notes accompanying this duo album Marc Johnson identifies his chief artistic aim as "transcending the stereotypes that are often associated with our instruments". Given that these are bass and, in Eric Longworth's case, the electric cello, it is easy to sympathise: it is, nevertheless, an aim achieved by the rich and emotive music on the album.

Longworth is a Canadian with a classical background, but his wide-ranging solo concerns have won him many admirers. Here he employs an extraordinary variety of techniques, from vigorous bowing through propulsive strumming to the most delicate of plucked accompaniment, to produce sounds and textures that can resemble everything

JAZZ ALBUMS

from ebullient country hoedown to plaintive Maghrebi oud music. Johnson, whether in robust soloing mode or playing his more accustomed solid supportive role, matches Longworth for both imagination and energy, and the album's beguiling overall sound is a tribute to the versatility and vision of both men.

CAROLINE TAYLOR

QUINTET
For the Moment (CMT Music CMTCD542)
AN AMERICAN, resident in the UK since 1986, Caroline Taylor grew up listening to Benny Goodman, Bix Beiderbecke and Fats Waller, but the music her British quintet play is firmly rooted in the hard-bop tradition epitomised by another drummer-leader, Art

Blakey, and her favourite composer is Horace Silver. Her originals — all but two numbers on this immediately accessible, sparky album — come right from the heart of classic Blue Note territory. There are blues, both loping and slinky, bustling up-tempo pieces enlivened by bursts of Latin rhythm, and soul-jazz dance grooves, all spearheaded by the punchy trumpet of Neil Yates and the deep, assured tenor of Denys Baptiste.

With Taylor driving a faultless rhythm section — the steady, eloquent bass of Simon Thorpe and Dave Frankel's fluent piano — the album (which also features a moving version of Leslie Bricusse's *When I Look in Your Eyes* sung by Claire Martin) should stir up interest in the band's forthcoming ten-date UK tour.

CHRIS PARKER

The left's right-on traitor

Guitarist and singer Josh White had three distinct musical careers. In the 1930s he was a big-selling and commercial blues star. A decade later he reinvented himself as a folk singer performing topical and often overtly political material. In the 1950s, after denouncing his former "Communist" colleagues before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, he became an all-round entertainer who gave lots of European audiences their first taste of the blues.

It's that intriguing middle period, when White was still the darling of the American left, that is featured on *Free and Equal Blues* (Smithsonian Folkways SFCD 40081). It is a fascinating mixture of commercial pop such as *One Meat Ball* and *Miss Otis Regrets*, blues such as Leroy Carr's *Mean Mistreatin' Woman*, and the political messages of *Beloved Comrade* — a tribute to Roosevelt — *No More Blues* (*No More Bread Lines*) and the CD's title track, a fascinat-

BLUES ALBUMS

ing song about the absurd wartime practice of keeping black and white blood segregated. For those who think of White as merely an effective if mannered folk singer, the album is a revelation.

By the Sixties, the definition of a blues singer had moved to encompass Lazy Lester, one of a group of Louisiana bluesmen whose relaxed and good-natured style of music became known as swamp blues. Now 65, Lester sounds as relaxed, or should we say as chilled out, as ever on *All Over You* (Anzames ANT0045). The harmonica player teams up with

some top names from Texas including guitarist Sue Foley for a romp through some Louisiana favourites including two of Lester's former successes *I'm A Lover Not A Fighter* and *You're Gonna Rain Me Baby*. One of the defining moments of the John Waters movie *Hairspray* was the sudden appearance of a little-known soul singer called Toussaint McCall performing a ballad of such strength and purity that it made you want to yelp with pleasure. That song, *Nothing Takes The Place of You*, now takes pride of place in the much-awaited second volume of *Deep Soul Treasures* chosen by black music expert Dave Godin (Kerr CD-KEND 150). Alongside are a host of other soul ballad gems including the sublime, original version of *Go Now* by Jessie Banks, an early civil rights anthem, *Cryin' In The Streets* by George Perkins, and the stunning *Let's Take A Chance* by Lisa Richards.

JOHN CLARKE

Memorable Music presents
JULIAN COPE
A SPOKEN PERFORMANCE

Thursday 2nd March 1999 C.E.
LEEDS IRISH CENTRE
Tel: 0113 244 1111

Wednesday 3rd March 1999 C.E.
SHEFFIELD LEAD MILL
Tel: 0114 276 0000

Thursday 4th March 1999 C.E.
MILTON KEYNES
THE STABLES THEATRE
Tel: 01908 550000

Friday 5th March 1999 C.E.
BRIGHTON
SALLIS BENNY THEATRE
Tel: 01273 720000

Saturday 6th March 1999 C.E.
CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION
Tel: 01223 310000

Monday 8th March 1999 C.E.
LIVERPOOL
EVERYMAN THEATRE
Tel: 0151 255 1000

Tel: 0113 244 1111

"TAKE YOUR STINKING PAWS OFF ME, YOU DAMN DIRTY APE"

BUY IT ON VIDEO NOW



ALSO AVAILABLE
ON VHS

THX

هكذا من لا يملك

POP ALBUMS

Nouveau-punk heroes

Can't teach old punks new licks

NEW POP ALBUMS: The Offspring have brought a whiff of 1977 to the charts. Oh good, says David Sinclair

THE OFFSPRING
Americana (Columbia COL 491656 £12.99)
BY BRIAN COHEN
The pure pop bandwagon rolls merrily on. But it seems as if a reaction is finally setting in, and suddenly all sorts of American rock bands that have been tailing away unnoticed on the margins for most of the 1990s are enjoying an upswing in their fortunes in this country. Sebadoh and Mercury Rev were rampant at last week's NME shows. This week, The Offspring are No 1 in the singles chart with their rock-rap rumble *Pretty Fly (For A White Guy)* and now their latest album, *Americana*, has come back from the dead.

Released in November, when it scraped into the Top 75 for one week, *Americana* is the kind of record that even two months ago hardly rated a mention outside the specialist music press. Now it has made its debut in the Top Ten. A bunch of nouveau-punk diehards, the Californian quartet released their first album ten years ago, since when they have doggedly pursued a one-track musical agenda which has secured them a string of internationally successful records, most notably *Smash*, released in 1994.

Americana confirms a familiar formula, boasting mostly short, deceptively melodic tunes played at high volume and driven at uniformly reckless speed. The juvenile, liberal-baiting lyrics of *She's Got Issues* and *Walla Walla* are gilded with rowdy yobs' chorus chants, custom built for beer, moose-pit singalongs, while the typically relaxed *Why Don't You Get A Job?* — a song about a girlfriend who has "expensive tastes" — could well be another Top Five hit were it to be given a radio edit that trimmed the worst of the lyrical excesses.

Subtlety, then, is not their strongest point and one hesitates to talk up a record such as *Americana* as the harbinger of a watershed in popular taste. But something is changing out there, and it is certainly not the Offspring.

BLACK STAR LINER
Bengali Bantam
Youth Experience! (WEA 3984250042 £15.99)
EVEN allowing for the groundbreaking efforts of Apache Indian, Asian Dub Foundation, Cornershop and others, the story of Anglo-Asian popular music has yet to advance much beyond the first chapter. And part of the charm of *Bengali Bantam* Youth Experience!, the second album by the Leeds-based trio Black Star Liner, is that it still sounds very much like a work in progress.

Restlessly innovative and endearingly exotic, the album nevertheless suffers from a mild case of attention deficit disorder. Early on, Choque Hossein (see interview below) raps out his nonsense words on *Low* BMW with wonderful exuberance while tables and stars mold seamlessly into the trans-groove of *Guarding Yellow* Funk. But the impact rather dissipates towards the end, as the album winds down with a sequence of increasingly vague instrumental pieces.

THE MUTTON BIRDS
Rain, Steam & Speed (shhh! SHCDP 001 £15.99)
UNLIKE the migrating albino from which they take their curiously unappealing

ARTS

POP GIG

Ladies' night

Laugh? I nearly danced

A FEW years ago, comedy was meant to be the new rock'n'roll. Barenaked Ladies go one better and combine the two, not as some novelty act with a trite line in slapstick parody but by making serious music that at the same time is able to laugh at pop's pretensions. The likes of Madness and Squeeze have been there before, but humour is a rare intruder in rock's emotional terrain, where looking miserable has become part of the job.

The Barenakeds, on the other hand, just can't take the grins off their faces — and they have a lot to smile about right now. The Canadian quintet's first British show in almost three years found them riding the crest of a wave, with three million sales in America for their latest album, *Stunt!*.

At the Shepherd's Bush Empire most of the humour came

LIVE GIG

Barenaked Ladies
Empire, W12

from the two frontmen, Steven Page and Ed Robertson, who could make an alternative career as a stand-up duo, except that they are having much more fun being improbable pop stars. The chubby and bespectacled Page combines his classic rock voice with the mannerisms of Mike Myers in the spoof movie *Austin Powers*, while Robertson's best gag involved getting a security guard to play a guitar duet with him.

The jokes worked because there is nothing comical about their musical accomplishments. The band rocked, the songs showed melodic flair, the harmonies were gorgeous and songs such as *Be My Yoko Ono* and *Brian Wilson* displayed a perfect understanding of pop's iconography. Some might find their unrelenting jollity irritating. In a bizarre ritual now familiar at every gig, a packet of macaroni cheese was thrown and Page picked it up and proceeded to read the list of ingredients. The crowd for some reason found this hilarious.

But *One Week*, a white college boy rap, was both smart and funny and is destined to be a Top Five single here. "It's all been done before," they sang in their opening number. Of course it has, but seldom with such wit and entertaining style.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON



One hesitates to talk up a record such as the Offspring's *Americana* as the harbinger of a watershed in popular taste

name, the Mutton Birds are a band which stubbornly refuses to fly. Still lacking an image, a hit single and — since they were dropped by Virgin — a proper record deal, the trio from New Zealand led by singer, guitarist and songwriter Don McGlashan continue to put out albums more in hope than expectation of any significant success.

Rain, Steam & Speed, their fourth studio recording, is a typically sober collection of high-quality, melodic-rock songs, written and performed with a minimum of fuss but (pace the inevitable and optimistic comparisons with Crowded House) with little guile or originality either.

While the artfully clanging guitars lend drama and impetus to uptempo songs such as *Pulled Along By Love* and *As Close As This*, McGlashan fails to convert his earnest, introspective musings into sentiments of more universal appeal on *Jackie's Song*, *Hands Full*, *Ray* and other slow, minor-key offerings.

KARAMASOV
On Arrival (Satellite STL 016 £14.99)
GROUPS such as Karamasov are the free radicals of the pop world. Flitting unpredictably around the fringes of art-rock, jazz and electronica, the Anglo-German quartet's primarily instrumental album, *On Arrival*, inhabits a parallel universe in which (whatever the title may suggest) the importance of boldly going far outweighs that of actually getting anywhere.

At their most forceful, as on

Nigel Williamson meets Black Star Liner and Joi, the latest bands to emerge from the British Asian underground

When Talvin Singh made an album called *The Sounds of the Asian Underground*, the title seemed an accurate enough description. While the music of second-generation British Asians thrived in cultish clubs such as London's Blue Note, the rest of the world remained indifferent. Two years on the name is woefully out of date. British Asian musicians boldly mixing East and West have marched into the mainstream as the sound of multicultural Britain.

First Cornershop, with their roots in Punjab and Wolverhampton, topped the charts with *Brimful of Asia*, a homage to the king of Indian film soundtracks. Then Asian Dub Foundation stormed the barricades with their dynamic brand of home-grown agit-pop. Now come Black Star Liner and Joi, who have both been

around for much of the decade but find themselves with major label deals and new albums fusing their Asian heritage with high-octane Western dance beats. Waiting in the wings is Amar, a 19-year-old Punjabi singer from Walsall, whose debut is due later this year amid rumours that her deal with Warner Bros is worth £3 million. All of a sudden, the Asian underground is beginning to look like an irresistible movement.

Earlier this week, Black Star Liner made an extraordinary appearance at London's Jazz Cafe. What began as a routine music industry album launch ended up as a riotous celebration of an idea whose time has come with songs celebrating, such as *British Asian* heroes as Prince Naseem and sounding like the Happy Mondays jamming with Ravi Shankar.

Brimful of Asia on the 45 (and LP)

"Part of me groans when people talk about the Asian underground," admits Choque Hossein, Black Star Liner's charismatic frontman. "At school I was the only Asian guy, and I remember the teachers making me play tambourine and bongos in front of the whole class because I was supposed to have a sense of rhythm. It was such a stereotype. People think all Asians can do is dance and cook."

His Leeds upbringing makes him sound more like Geoff Boycott than Sachin Tendulkar, but he recalls watching football at Elland Road and being abused as the only Asian on the terraces. "When I began playing in guitar bands it was white musicians and white audiences. Now we are everywhere. We took your jobs and now we've taken your music," he jokes. "Asians have become versed in rock culture. It's ours too, and now we are giving it back to you."

Hossein grew up feeling an outsider not only because of the racial abuse he suffered, but because he was also at odds with many of the attitudes of his Indian father. Somewhere out of that conflict comes the music of Black Star Liner. "I didn't understand that many of my Dad's prejudices came from his background. He used to make us spend the summer holidays doing extra homework. That's the way Asian families are. But he taught me a lot about where he came from and about my grandparents and I always took great pleasure in that heritage. He played Bollywood music, I'd be listening to the Rolling Stones, and it was all mixed in together."

Paradoxically, it was white rock music that drove him back to his Asian roots. "I heard all these psychedelic records using sitars and Indian influences. Then, when I lis-

tened to real Asian music, I realised that the rock stuff wasn't very good. I was sure I could do it better because I understood it. For me it was real, not just some cool multicultural hippy bull."

A week earlier I had sat in a cafe in the heart of London's East End with Farook and Haroon Shamsher, the two Bengali brothers who constitute Joi. Their new single, *Asian Vibes*, a fabulous swirling piece of British Asian pop which puns the pretensions of Kula Shaker to shame, is released next month, to be followed by their debut album in March.

Like Hossein, the brothers are proud of their Asian heritage but are equally steeped in Western influences. "We were born and brought up here and influenced by hip hop, funk, soul and reggae," Haroon says. "But our Dad had a shop selling music to the Asian community so we heard traditional Bengali music."

They started mixing the different elements, DJ-ing at clubs with the Joi Bangla Sound System. "When we started rapping we would give the crowd a Michael Jackson groove and then we would mix in a traditional Bengali thing, very slowly so they hardly noticed," Farook recalls. "Then

we would turn it up and they would wonder what the hell it was — but they would still be dancing to it. It was seen as off-the-wall Paki music but it seemed very natural to us. We wanted to give our own people a sense of identity."

Last year they made the transition from sound system to full performing band, adding guitars and singers. "We can't be disappointed that the me-

dia is finally paying attention to the Asian scene, because it is what we have worked towards. But I hope it isn't going to be seen as a passing phase. If it gets overhyped it could get lost when the next fad comes along."

● Bengali Bantam Youth Experience by Black Star Liner is reviewed above. *Asian Vibes* by Joi is released by Real World/Virgin on Feb 21

recommendsclassical

ELGAR
CELLO CONCERTO
JACQUELINE DU PRE

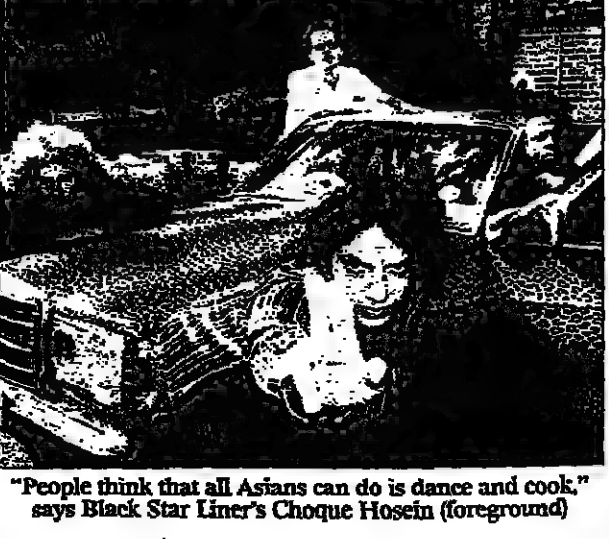
RAVEL
THE PIANO CONCERTOS
KRISTIAN ZIMEHRMAN

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
SYMPHONY NO. 6
BERNARD HARTINK

CHAPMANIER
DIVERTISSEMENTS, AIRS ET CONCERTS
WILLIAM CHRISTIE

SOVIET UNION
THE GIPSY KING
RONALD CORP

Available from selected stores nationwide and direct to your door by phoning 0990 34 45 78



"People think that all Asians can do is dance and cook," says Black Star Liner's Choque Hossein (foreground)

THIS WEEK:

NME

BRITAIN'S MOST WANTED.

POLL WINNERS ISSUE. FREE CD.

INCLUDES: MANICUS, FATBOY SLIM, GOMEZ & MASSIVE ATTACK

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6800

EDUCATION

FAX:
0171 782 7899

POSTS

Head of Prep The Grange School

Hartford, Cheshire

The School:

- Situated between Manchester and Chester, The Grange is a much sought after HMC co-educational day school with a total of 1,100 pupils, aged 4 to 18 years.
- The Prep School has 500 boys and girls aged 4 to 11, on a separate site. The building is modern and well equipped.

The post falls vacant in September 1999. Closing date, 12 February 1999. Please write in confidence, with full career and current salary details, quoting reference DE/1591

The Requirements:

- Preferably, the successful candidate will have senior management experience in a Prep school environment.
- Ability to provide enthusiastic and creative leadership, for a dynamic and successful organisation.

Tel: 0171 499 8811 Fax: 0171 499 6725
e-mail hamiltonp@odgers.com

odgers

Odgers Executive Selection
7 Curzon Street, London W1T 7FL

EXAMINATIONS APPEALS BOARD CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIRS

The Secretary of State for Education and Employment invites applications for the posts of Chair (one post) and Deputy Chairs (two posts) to serve on this new body. The Examinations Appeals Board (EAB) will have an important role to play in helping to maintain the standard and rigour of major national qualifications. Initially, it will be responsible for hearing final appeals for GCSEs and GCE A levels. Other qualifications will be added to its remit in due course. It will consider whether awarding bodies have applied consistent, fair and proper procedures in the assessment and awarding of results.

The postholders will:

- assess cases for appeal;
- chair panels convened to hear appeals face to face with applicants (principally schools and colleges) and the awarding bodies;
- write up appeal findings, including for publication;
- have responsibility for selecting and maintaining a pool of appeals panelists;
- alert the regulatory authorities to defects in awarding bodies' procedures;
- represent the Board at meetings with Ministers, and on other occasions as necessary;
- prepare and publish an annual report summarising the Board's operations.

The Chair will have overall responsibility for the operation of the Board.

Applicants will be expected to have:

- significant experience of education and training - for instance, senior positions in an LEA, school or college;
- credibility with educational organisations or awarding bodies;
- some knowledge of legal process and appeal procedures.

Successful candidates will initially be appointed for three years. The workload across all three posts is estimated to be between 20 and 30 days per annum, with deputies standing in when the chair is unavailable. More days may be required in the first year and once other qualifications are brought within the Board's remit. The Board will be based in central London. All posts attract a daily fee of £300 and travel and subsistence costs will be reimbursed.

For further information and an application form, please send a postcard or Email bearing your name, address and reference "EAB" to:

JOHN LYNCH, Department for Education and Employment, Level 5, Cannon House,
6-12 Titchell Street, London SW1H 9NA. E-Mail: jon.lynn@dfe.gov.uk

Please state whether you wish to be considered for the post of Chair or Deputy.

The closing date for applications is 22 February 1999.

Applications are particularly welcome from people with disabilities, members of ethnic minority groups and women.

THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT IS COMMITTED TO MAKING APPOINTMENTS ON MERIT BY FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS, TAKING ACCOUNT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

D/EE
Department for
Education and Employment

EASTER REVISION

ABBEY easter revision

The Abbey Group of Colleges - well known for excellence in education.

0171 229 5928 01223 328686

0121 236 7474 0161 236 6836

WEEK 1: 29 MARCH - 2 APRIL WEEK 2: 5 - 9 APRIL WEEK 3: 12 - 16 APRIL

EXAM TECHNIQUES
24/7 Level 1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100/101/102/103/104/105/106/107/108/109/110/111/112/113/114/115/116/117/118/119/120/121/122/123/124/125/126/127/128/129/130/131/132/133/134/135/136/137/138/139/140/141/142/143/144/145/146/147/148/149/150/151/152/153/154/155/156/157/158/159/160/161/162/163/164/165/166/167/168/169/170/171/172/173/174/175/176/177/178/179/180/181/182/183/184/185/186/187/188/189/190/191/192/193/194/195/196/197/198/199/200/201/202/203/204/205/206/207/208/209/210/211/212/213/214/215/216/217/218/219/220/221/222/223/224/225/226/227/228/229/230/231/232/233/234/235/236/237/238/239/240/241/242/243/244/245/246/247/248/249/250/251/252/253/254/255/256/257/258/259/260/261/262/263/264/265/266/267/268/269/270/271/272/273/274/275/276/277/278/279/280/281/282/283/284/285/286/287/288/289/290/291/292/293/294/295/296/297/298/299/300/301/302/303/304/305/306/307/308/309/310/311/312/313/314/315/316/317/318/319/320/321/322/323/324/325/326/327/328/329/330/331/332/333/334/335/336/337/338/339/340/341/342/343/344/345/346/347/348/349/350/351/352/353/354/355/356/357/358/359/360/361/362/363/364/365/366/367/368/369/370/371/372/373/374/375/376/377/378/379/380/381/382/383/384/385/386/387/388/389/390/391/392/393/394/395/396/397/398/399/400/401/402/403/404/405/406/407/408/409/410/411/412/413/414/415/416/417/418/419/420/421/422/423/424/425/426/427/428/429/430/431/432/433/434/435/436/437/438/439/440/441/442/443/444/445/446/447/448/449/450/451/452/453/454/455/456/457/458/459/460/461/462/463/464/465/466/467/468/469/470/471/472/473/474/475/476/477/478/479/480/481/482/483/484/485/486/487/488/489/490/491/492/493/494/495/496/497/498/499/500/501/502/503/504/505/506/507/508/509/510/511/512/513/514/515/516/517/518/519/520/521/522/523/524/525/526/527/528/529/530/531/532/533/534/535/536/537/538/539/540/541/542/543/544/545/546/547/548/549/550/551/552/553/554/555/556/557/558/559/560/561/562/563/564/565/566/567/568/569/570/571/572/573/574/575/576/577/578/579/580/581/582/583/584/585/586/587/588/589/590/591/592/593/594/595/596/597/598/599/600/601/602/603/604/605/606/607/608/609/610/611/612/613/614/615/616/617/618/619/620/621/622/623/624/625/626/627/628/629/630/631/632/633/634/635/636/637/638/639/640/641/642/643/644/645/646/647/648/649/650/651/652/653/654/655/656/657/658/659/660/661/662/663/664/665/666/667/668/669/670/671/672/673/674/675/676/677/678/679/680/681/682/683/684/685/686/687/688/689/690/691/692/693/694/695/696/697/698/699/700/701/702/703/704/705/706/707/708/709/710/711/712/713/714/715/716/717/718/719/720/721/722/723/724/725/726/727/728/729/730/731/732/733/734/735/736/737/738/739/740/741/742/743/744/745/746/747/748/749/750/751/752/753/754/755/756/757/758/759/760/761/762/763/764/765/766/767/768/769/770/771/772/773/774/775/776/777/778/779/780/781/782/783/784/785/786/787/788/789/790/791/792/793/794/795/796/797/798/799/800/801/802/803/804/805/806/807/808/809/810/811/812/813/814/815/816/817/818/819/820/821/822/823/824/825/826/827/828/829/830/831/832/833/834/835/836/837/838/839/840/841/842/843/844/845/846/847/848/849/850/851/852/853/854/855/856/857/858/859/860/861/862/863/864/865/866/867/868/869/870/871/872/873/874/875/876/877/878/879/880/881/882/883/884/885/886/887/888/889/890/891/892/893/894/895/896/897/898/899/900/901/902/903/904/905/906/907/908/909/910/911/912/913/914/915/916/917/918/919/920/921/922/923/924/925/926/927/928/929/930/931/932/933/934/935/936/937/938/939/940/941/942/943/944/945/946/947/948/949/950/951/952/953/954/955/956/957/958/959/960/961/962/963/964/965/966/967/968/969/970/971/972/973/974/975/976/977/978/979/980/981/982/983/984/985/986/987/988/989/990/991/992/993/994/995/996/997/998/999/1000/1001/1002/1003/1004/1005/1006/1007/1008/1009/1010/1011/1012/1013/1014/1015/1016/1017/1018/1019/1020/1021/1022/1023/1024/1025/1026/1027/1028/1029/1030/1031/1032/1033/1034/1035/1036/1037/1038/1039/1040/1041/1042/1043/1044/1045/1046/1047/1048/1049/1050/1051/1052/1053/1054/1055/1056/1057/1058/1059/1060/1061/1062/1063/1064/1065/1066/1067/1068/1069/1070/1071/1072/1073/1074/1075/1076/1077/1078/1079/1080/1081/1082/1083/1084/1085/1086/1087/1088/1089/1090/1091/1092/1093/1094/1095/1096/1097/1098/1099/1100/1101/1102/1103/1104/1105/1106/1107/1108/1109/1110/1111/1112/1113/1114/1115/1116/1117/1118/1119/1120/1121/1122/1123/1124/1125/1126/1127/1128/1129/1130/1131/1132/1133/1134/1135/1136/1137/1138/1139/1140/1141/1142/1143/1144/1145/1146/1147/1148/1149/1150/1151/1152/1153/1154/1155/1156/1157/1158/1159/1160/1161/1162/1163/1164/1165/1166/1167/1168/1169/1170/1171/1172/1173/1174/1175/1176/1177/1178/1179/1180/1181/1182/1183/1184/1185/1186/1187/1188/1189/1190/1191/1192/1193/1194/1195/1196/1197/1198/1199/1200/1201/1202/1203/1204/1205/1206/1207/1208/1209/1210/1211/1212/1213/1214/1215/1216/1217/1218/1219/1220/1221/1222/1223/1224/1225/1226/1227/1228/1229/1230/1231/1232/1233/1234/1235/1236/1237/1238/1239/1240/1241/1242/1243/1244/1245/1246/1247/1248/1249/1250/1251/1252/1253/1254/1255/1256/1257/1258/1259/1260/1261/1262/1263/1264/1265/1266/1267/1268/1269/1270/1271/1272/1273/1274/1275/1276/1277/1278/1279/1280/1281/1282/1283/1284/1285/1286/1287/1288/1289/1290/1291/1292/1293/1294/1295/1296/1297/1298/1299/1300/1301/1302/1303/1304/1305/1306/1307/1308/1309/1310/1311/1312/1313/1314/1315/1316/1317/1318/1319/1320/1321/1322/1323/1324/1325/1326/1327/1328/1329/1330/1331/1332/1333/1334/1335/1336/1337/1338/1339/1340/1341/1342/1343/1344/1345/1346/1347/1348/1349/1350/1351/1352/1353/1354/1355/1356/1357/1358/1359/1360/1361/1362/1363/1364/1365/1366/1367/1368/1369/1370/1371/1372/1373/1374/1375/1376/1377/1378/1379/1380/1381/1382/1383/1384/1385/1386/1387/1388/1389/1390/1391/1392/1393/1394/1395/1396/1397/1398/1399/1400/1401/1402/1403/1404/1405/1406/1407/1408/1409/1410/1411/1412/1413/1414/1415/1416/1417/1418/1419/1420/1421/1422/1423/1424/1425/1426/1427/1428/1429/1430/1431/1432/1433/1434/1435/1436/1437/1438/1439/1440/1441/1442/1443/1444/1445/1446/1447/1448/1449/1450/1451/1452/1453/1454/1455/1456/1457/1458/1459/1460/1461/1462/1463/1464/1465/1466/1467/1468/1469/1470/1471/1472/1473/1474/1475/1476/1477/1478/1479/1480/1481/1482/1483/1484/1485/1486/1487/1488/1489/1490/1491/1492/1493/1494/1495/1496/1497/1498/1499/1500/1501/1502/1503/1504/1505/1506/1507/1508/1509/1510/1511/1512/1513/1514/1515/1516/1517/1518/1519/1520/1521/1522/1523/1524/1525/1526/1527/1528/1529/1530/1531/1532/1533/1534/1535/1536/1537/1538/1539/1540/1541/1542/1543/1544/1545/1546/1547/1548/1549/1550/1551/1552/1553/1554/1555/1556/1557/1558/1559/1560/1561/1562/1563/1564/1565/1566/1567/1568/1569/1570/1571/1572/1573/1574/1575/1576/1577/1578/1579/1580/1581/1582/1583/1584/1585/1586/1587/1588/1589/1590/1591/1592/1593/1594/1595/1596/1597/1598/1599/1600/1601/1602/1603/1604/1605/1606/1607/1608/1609/1610/1611/1612/1613/1614/1615/1616/1617/1618/1619/1620/1621/1622/1623/1624/1625/1626/1627/1628/1629/1630/1631/1632/1633/1634/1635/1636/1637/1638/1639/1640/1641/1642/1643/1644/1645/1646/1647/1648/1649/1650/1651/1652/1653/1654/1655/1656/1657/1658/1659/1660/1661/1662/1663/1664/1665/1666/1667/1668/1669/1670/1671/1672/1673/1674/1675/1676/1677/1678/1679/1680/1681/1682/1683/1684/1685/1686/1687/1688/1689/1690/1691/1692/1693/1694/1695/1696/1697/1698/1699/1700/1701/1702/1703/1704/1705/1706/1707/1708/1709/1710/1711/1712/1713/1714/1715/1716/1717/1718/1719/1720/1721/1722/1723/1724/1725/1726/1727/1728/1729/1730/1731/1732/1733/1734/1735/1736/1737/1738/1739/1740/1741/1742/1743/1744/1745/1746/1747/1748/1749/1750/1751/1752/1753/1754/1755/1756/1757/1758/1759/1760/1761/1762/1763/1764/1765/1766/1767/1768/1769/1770/1771/1772/1773/1774/1775/1776/1777/1778/1779/1780/1781/1782/1783/1784/1785/1786/1787/1788/1789/1790/1791/1792/1793/1794/1795/1796/1797/1798/1799/1800/1801/1802/1803/1804/1805/1806/1807/1808/1809/1810/1811/1812/1813/1814/1815/1816/1817/1818/1819/1820/1821/1822/1823/1824/1825/1826/1827/1828/1829/1830/1831/1832/1833/1834/1835/1836/1837/1838/1839/1840/1841/1842/1843/1844/1845/1846/1847/1848/1849/1850/1851/1852/1853/1854/1855/1856/1857/1858/1859/1860/1861/1862/1863/1864/1865/1866/1867/1868/1869/1870/1871/1872/1873/1874/1875/1876/1877/1878/1879/1880/1881/1882/1883/1884/1885/1886/1887/1888/1889/1890/1891/1892/1893/1894/1895/1896/1897/1898/1899/1900/1901/1902/1903/1904/1905/1906/1907/1908/1909/1910/1911/1912/1913/1914/1915/1916/1917/1918/1919/1920/1921/1922/1923/1924/1925/1926/1927/1928/1929/1930/1931/1932/1933/1934/1935/1936/1937/1938/1939/1940/1941/1942/1943/1944/1945/1946/1947/1948/1949/1950/1951/1952/1953/1954/1955/1956/1957/1958/1959/1960/1961/1962/1963/1964/1965/1966/1967/1968/1969/1970/1971/1972/1973/1974/1975/1976/1977/1978/1979/1980/1981/1982/1983/1984/1985/1986/1987/1988/1989/1990/1991/1992/1993/1994/1995/1996/1997/1998/1999/2000/2001/2002/2003/2004/2005/2006/2007/2008/2009/2010/2011/2012/2013/2014/2015/2016/2017/2018/2019/2020/2021/2022/2023/2024/2025/2026/2027/2028/2029/2030/2031/2032/2033/2034/2035/2036/2037/2038/2039/2040/2041/2042/2043/2044/2045/2046/2047/2048/2049/2050/2051/2052/2053/2054/2055/2056/2057/2058/2059/2060/2061/2062/2063/2064/2065/2066/2067/2068/2069/2070/2071/2072/2073/2074/2075/2076/2077/2078/2079/2080/2081/2082/2083/2084/2085/2086/2087/2088/2089/2090/2091/2092/2093/2094/2095/2096/2097/2098/2099/2100/2101/2102/2103/2104/2105/2106/2107/2108/2109/2110/2111/2112/2113/2114/2115/2116/2117/2118/2119/2120/2121/2122/2123/2124/2125/2126/2127/2128/2129/2130/2131/2132/2133/2134/2135/2136/2137/2138/2139/2140/2141/2142/2143/2144/2145/2146/2147/2148/2149/2150/2151/2152/2153/2154/2155/2156/2157/2158/2159/2160/2161/2162/2163/2164/2165/2166/2167/2168/2169/2170/2171/2172/2173/2174/2175/2176/2177/2178/2179/2180/2181/2182/2183/2184/2185/2186/2187/2188/2189/2190/2191/2192/2193/2194/2195/2196/2197/2198/2199/2200/2201/2202/2203/2204

EDUCATION

'A danger to young women'

Educating girls was still taboo when Benenden was founded, says Susan Elkin

In the decade when women were frequently said to be overtaking men, it is easy to forget that only 75 years ago education for women was considered an indulgence, and then only for a privileged few.

It has taken a long time for women's education to catch up with its male counterpart. There has been enormous progress in a relatively short time since the pioneers Miss Beale and Miss Buss founded Cheltenham Ladies' College and London Collegiate School in the mid-19th century.

A new book, *Benenden - A Great Company*, celebrates the Kent school's first 75 years and the changing face of women's education. "Continuous mental effort is a danger to young women" was the opinion in the 1890s of the British Medical Association. It declared that too much brain work during puberty would damage women's future reproductive capacity. How the education of women progressed in the face of such opposition is astounding.

David Souden, the author of *Benenden*, describes the massive rearguard campaign. By the turn of the century there were 61 girls' schools, 22 running under the auspices of the Girls' Public Day School Trust (now the Girls' Day School Trust).

Benenden - the former Victorian Gothic home of Lord Rothermere, which is set in magnificent parkland - did not aim to be an academic house. Yet today it holds a high position in senior league tables and almost all its sixth-formers go on to university. The school was founded by Christine Sheldon, Anne Hindle and Kathleen Bird in 1924. The adventurous personalities of the founders are somewhat belied by the staid tweedy air they present in the 1948 portrait by Kenneth Green, which hangs in the school's entrance hall. In fact, the three were bored thirtysomething escapades from Wycombe Abbey who were out to break the educational mould.

Miss Bird, known as Birdie, would recount: "We hatched the plan in the stationery cupboard at Wycombe Abbey, where we used to go to eat buns."

With only £100 each to invest, they relied on their powerful blend of idealism and eagerness to find enough backers to enable them to open with 24 girls. They wanted to create a modern, relaxed envi-



Women getting out there: Benenden pupils take part in a lesson on Shakespeare in the school's Kent grounds during the inter-war years

ronment, rather than one bound by petty rules or that mimicked the ancient establishments attended by their pupils' brothers. Their charges would be able to "develop freely. As one early pupil recalls: "You could learn anything in the world you fancied: bellringing or Greek, forestry or pottery, or how to cook salmon. Kindness mattered a great deal and when I left I cried for a fortnight because I truly believed that the best years of my life were over."

Today's Benenden girls, Mr Souden says wryly, are more likely to be surfing the Internet than keeping poultry in the pursuit of the "hobbies" so passionately advocated by Miss Bird.

Then, when examination curriculums did not hold eve-

ry school in such thrall, one afternoon a week was systematically devoted to horse-breeding, learning a musical instrument, writing poetry and other activities. Everyone participated and there wasn't much "them and us" any more than there is at Benenden now. "Can I have another butterfly net," one pupil wrote home in the 1920s, "because I have a friend called Birdie who keeps borrowing mine?"

Mr Souden writes: "The 1920s were boom years for independent schools. There was an abundance of dedicated teachers who were part of that substantial body of unmarried women in Britain between the wars. For the first generation of university-educated women, teaching was one of the few available outlets for a respectable career."

It is hard for Benenden's cur-

rent pupils, who take equal opportunities for granted, to grasp that when their great-grandmothers were schoolgirls science teaching was almost non-existent.

Mr Souden cites the example of one Benenden girl who went up to Oxford in 1927 having learnt what passed for science in a laboratory without gas. Miss Burrell, the science mistress, could only draw a Bunsen burner for her, so the student had to have private tuition before university.

Today opportunities have never been greater for women, and most expect to work for a significant part, if not all, their active lives. But it still takes a school history to remind us how far we have come.

● Benenden - A Great Company is published by Granta Editions at £18.95.

A case for natural justice

The Independent Schools Tribunal, happily, meets only rarely. Until this week's disqualification of Robin Lindsay, the former Headmaster and proprietor of Sherborne Preparatory School, it last sat three years ago. Many of those who followed Mr Lindsay's case will think that there should be changes before it does so again.

The barring of Mr Lindsay was inevitable: a succession of inspection reports over a dozen years painted a picture of maladministration and questionable behaviour. He showed an apparently obsessive interest in boys' physical development, constantly supervising showers and weighing the rugby team naked. He would wander the school in pyjamas during the day and sometimes took children into his bedroom at night, stroking their heads, cuddling or tickling them if he found them awake.

Because of an unusual combination of circumstances, however, Mr Lindsay denied himself the right to answer even more serious charges. On the word of a psychiatrist, he was branded a "fixated paedophile" and three former pupils' allegations of sexual assaults were heard without challenge. Although the complaints relating to the assaults were not upheld, they remain on file. The most serious of them, made years after the event by a boy Mr Lindsay expelled,

was not pursued by the Director of Public Prosecutions and would surely have been demolished in cross-examination.

Mr Lindsay appealed against disqualification to save the school, to which he had devoted most of his life, from immediate closure. He then withdrew the appeal to facilitate a takeover by a local trust, but the tribunal's rules require that the case must be heard anyway. It is hard to imagine another legal forum in which such damaging allegations could be heard without any defence.



Now 70, Mr Lindsay may conform to a psychiatrist's definition of a paedophile, but the behaviour described in evidence to the tribunal did not seem to fit the common

usage of the term. Many boarders from previous eras will recall similar characters, who would have fallen foul of modern convention but were not abusers. Roy Chapman, the former Headmaster of Malvern College, who was also an expert witness, correctly judged that Sherborne was a school "in a time warp".

Owner-head teachers of preparatory schools can be a law unto themselves and occasionally ride roughshod over the interests of pupils and staff. The penalty of disqualification may then be the only one available to curb their excesses, but there must be natural justice in the treatment of appeals. A one-sided public hearing is hardly that.

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

THE TIMES

HANDS UP WHO'S NOT COLLECTING?

Children need more books



A BIG BOOST IN THE CLASSROOM
Whether you have no children or your children are grown up, still collect tokens and give them to a school in your area. They will appreciate your support.

MORE THAN 150 TITLES
The range of quality titles includes Shakespeare plays, atlases, dictionaries, fiction and non-fiction, wildlife and science books, audio and Braille titles.

JOIN IN THE BOOKS BONANZA
Depending on the title, each school needs 100, 250 or 500 tokens per book. Tokens will appear every day in *The Times* until March 27. There are four every week in *The Sunday Times* and there are more on packets of Walkers snacks.

Offer open to schools registered in the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. For information and registration forms, call 01773-481330.

CUT OUT THIS TOKEN NOW

THE TIMES



CHANGING TIMES

Your country needs you

How remarkable that one of the spin-offs from the British Empire is an education system in Singapore that is highly regarded, and whose professional workers are so valued that applications for teacher-training places are oversubscribed.

What a contrast with the United Kingdom, where we have a profession that is being talked up by politicians after being battered to the ground by them in previous decades.

Recruits are still hard to find: we print glossy brochures, we join the "Milk Round" at universities, an advertising campaign declares that no one forgets a good teacher and the Government says it is going to pay superteachers more. Despite this, we cannot encourage people to join our profession.

Examples that point to the reasons are numerous: my son starts his training contract at a few firms on the same salary as it takes an honours graduate with one year's postgraduate training seven years to reach. We ask teachers to work in schools that are in a bad state of repair. We ask them to teach without providing them with the tools of the trade. How odd that a newspaper reported recently for the first time in 100 years that the teachers in a village school did not have to queue to go to the outside toilet - Third World provision at the end of the 20th century.

Rhetoric is not enough: the Government needs to be creative. One way forward is to create a system of short-service commissions in teaching, akin to those used in the Armed Forces. Given that transferable skills are fashionable, it is time to recognise that a trained teacher is a priceless asset in a huge range of organisations outside education because of the skills required.

Like the Armed Forces, the teaching profession would benefit from short-service commissions, says Jenny Stephen

The teacher has to refine exceptional communication skills and to deal with children across all boundaries of gender, age and ability. The teacher has to take swaths of factual information and boil it down to bite-sized lumps, packaging it attractively and tailoring its delivery to strict time limits. The teacher has to blend strict professional ethics and principles with a capacity to learn when and where to compromise. The teacher has to work as a member of a team and yet retain individuality. The teacher has to view people in their entire complexity, as a brain and as a body, as a set of emotions as well as an intellect. The teacher has to come to terms with external methods of assessment and national standards, yet never stop self-monitoring.

The teacher has to be able to learn quickly and to take his or her work home. The teacher has to learn to adapt, from A level to remedial, from classroom to playground. The teacher has to be willing to take a decision, and to know when to defer a decision. The teacher has to read what others write and assess it, as well as writing reports for others to read and assess. The teacher has to learn how to keep up in his or her subject as well as teaching it.

These are crucial skills which we should learn to transfer. Short service commissions work for the Army, why not for teaching? Industry, the Civil Service, universities and the professions need these short-service commission schemes

where teachers can serve their learning time in schools and then be guaranteed transfer of their skills back to a wide range of other careers.

Perhaps short-service commissions might stop the Government from having to dictate the agenda for everything taught in schools and let that agenda be dictated by the customers. Indeed, the increased communication between sectors might mean that schools started to understand what industry needs and industry might learn what schools can reasonably be asked to provide. It might mean that language skills match what business and the country needs and that English lessons resuscitate grammar, and that information technology skills serve the needs of employers, not the whims of the pupils. Above all, such a scheme would mean that more postgraduates would enter education because it would be seen as an excellent starting point for any one of a number of careers, and not as a vocational cul-de-sac.

Far more people would be lured into teaching because the relevance of its skills base, and hence its credibility and respectability, would be re-established after years in the doldrums. For employers, it would mean a steady flow of staff whose skills had been tempered in the furnace of the school and classroom, in one of the most answerable and demanding professions in the world.

● The author is Head of The Grange School in Hartford, Cheshire.

SAILING

Bullimore's yen for adventure survives intact

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

TONY BULLIMORE used to be a successful yachtsman, though not particularly well known outside the rarefied world of international multi-hull racing. Then, two years ago, he was plucked from the Southern Ocean by the Australian Navy and life has never been the same for the former night club owner from Bristol.

Given the extraordinary circumstances of his rescue and his remarkable instinct for survival, it is not surprising that Bullimore has had difficulty putting the episode behind him. In the past 18 months he has given talks, written a book and helped to make documentaries about his experiences. He has had to put up with people assuming that he has made millions out of it — he has not, and the much-hyped sponsorship by a chocolate manufacturer never happened — and he admits that he is growing weary of it.

At the tender age of 60, what he wants above all is to be taken seriously as a yachtsman and he has thrown himself headlong into his most ambitious project to date with the purchase of the old Nigel Irens-designed catamaran, *Royal & Sun Alliance*, formerly the round-the-world record-breaker, *ENZA* New Zealand. It is a project aimed at rewriting records, including the

Jules Verne non-stop round-the-world time, and entering The Race, the non-stop round-the-world dash for unlimited boats that starts in December 2000.

This is not going to be easy sailing but Bullimore is up for it. Untroubled it seems by ghosts returning to haunt him from the icy waters 1,000 miles southwest of Fremantle, Bullimore says that his appetite for the big time is "exactly the same" as it ever was and, when he walks on *ENZA*'s hulls, he gets the same thrill as he always did from a multi-hull.

"I'm still smoking and I'm desperate to give it up," Bullimore said. "But I'm nowhere near my age. I feel great. I can hack it with people a lot younger than me — running, jumping, I'm all right."

The big cat is at present on the hard at Redcliffe Wharf in Bristol where she is being tended over by a substantial programme of modifications, which include adding eight feet to the bows and fitting a new, bigger wingmast. The aim is to make the boat, which was originally launched in 1983 as the *Formula TAG*, as competitive as possible at a time when an unknown number of huge catamarans are being constructed for The Race.

So far, only one, Steve Fos-

sett's 105ft *PlayStation*, has been completed and it is far from certain how many more will be built. It is for this reason that Bullimore and Irens dismiss those who argue that the old *ENZA* is yesterday's news.

Irens believes that the extra length in the hulls and power in the rig could lift her average potential speed in the Southern Ocean from around 18 knots to possibly 24 knots and he is confident his "old warhorse" still has a competitive future.

"The new era is so indeterminate at the moment," Irens said. "We don't know what these new boats are going to do, which ones are going to get out and which ones are going to break down when they do get out. What Tony's boat represents, assuming he does the work, is a good standard entry or a benchmark. Someone may well go faster in a new boat but Tony's boat is a known quantity that can only be improved."

Bullimore is no stranger to risk-taking, either on the water or off it. But he has spent £400,000 buying *ENZA* and the project has already swallowed up another £100,000. Now he needs a commercial backer to help him pay for the work and the campaign. There are three interested parties and he is confident that one of them will sign by the end of February.

However, if he cannot find a sponsor, there are three other syndicates, including one in France, that are prepared to buy the project from him. They believe that Bullimore's cut-price approach to The Race could well be the way ahead. But the ever-optimistic Bullimore is hoping it won't come to that.

"The thing is," he said, "I've got no doubts we will do well in this boat. Nigel has made it clear to me that, with all the modifications we are doing, we are actually taking her into the 21st century, ready to race."



Bullimore has grown weary of reliving his Southern Ocean rescue and longs to be taken seriously as a yachtsman



Krylova and Ovsianikov perform their original dance in Prague yesterday

Russian pair on brink of winning elusive title

ANJELIKA KRYLOVA and Oleg Ovsianikov strengthened their position as the leading eligible ice dancers in the world yesterday by winning the second round of the ice dance competition at the European figure skating championships.

The three-times champions of Russia skated in a manner befitting the holders of the Olympic silver and world gold medals and are on course to claim their first European title when the competition concludes tonight with the free dance.

Krylova, 25, and Ovsianikov, 29, have spent much of their career in the shadow of another Russian couple,

FROM ANGELA COURT IN PRAGUE

Pasha Grishuk and Yevgeny Platov, the two-time Olympic gold medal-winners, who have turned professional and dissolved their partnership.

Although Krylova and Ovsianikov came close, they never defeated them, having to settle for silver at three European championships, two world championships and the 1998 Olympic Games.

Yesterday, in the original dance section of the competition, their waltz, performed to *The Drinking Song* from *La Traviata*, and sung by Pavarotti, contained elegant skating and strong artistry.

Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat, the Olympic bronze medal-winners from France, are second. Their free dance to *The Man in the Iron Mask* soundtrack is quite spectacular and likely to be one of the highlights of the entire championships. Irina Lobacheva and Ilya Averbukh, from Russia, are third.

Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland, the British champions, skated a dreamy, lifting waltz without significant errors and held on to fourth place.

The women skate their short programmes this afternoon. Maria Butyrskaya, from Russia, remains the favourite for gold.

HOCKEY

S. Africa may join England on tour

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

SOUTH Africa may join England on their tour of Argentina at the end of March to set up a three-nation series at three different venues.

Barry Dancer, the England coach, explained yesterday that the South Africans are committed to a home series against a side from the Australian Institute of Sports, but are hoping to bring these matches forward so as to be free for the trip to Argentina.

In the National League premier division, Teddington's line-up at home to Cannock on Sunday includes Jon Hauck, who scored all their goals in a 5-4 victory over Old Loughboroughians. Neil Campbell, the Teddington manager, said: "For the first time this season, we were at full strength. We now expect to upset a few more leading teams." Cannock report no injury problems.

Except for Peter Riley, the defender, who is on a weekend commitment with St George's Weybridge, Guildford can call on all of their best players for the home match against Canterbury, the league leaders.

Southgate, having solved most of their injury problems, are taking a squad strong enough to meet the challenge by Beeston, who hope to lift themselves back into fourth position, above Reading. Their ambition is unlikely to be achieved, for Reading are on a visit to Brooklands, who are still languishing at the bottom of the table.

East Grinstead, who beat Brooklands 9-1 last week, visit Hounslow, whose relegation worries have not yet eased.

Surbiton, with Greg Nicol, the South African, centre forward, back in their ranks, are pushing fervently towards the top of the first division, but they seem unlikely to displace Barford Tigers, who should take full points from Indian Gymkhana.

Doncaster and Havant continue their chase to finish on top, but the matter will not end there. The champions will have to play off against the tenth-placed team in the premier division to decide the last place in the restructured premier division next season.

Bollington believes her time has come

BY CATHY HARRIS

LYNN BOLLINGTON has played for Chelmsford for 23 years and although the club have come close to capturing the national indoor league title on several occasions, they have never triumphed. This weekend, in the play-offs at Crystal Palace, Bollington is determined to change that.

The former England outdoor international and captain of the indoor side believes that few would begrudge the Essex club the honour. She said: "We've always played well, in the right spirit, and taken it seriously. We have edged closer and closer, just missing out to Slough last season. It's about time we won."

She acknowledges that competition in the round-robin event will be tough, especially against Slough, the holders, and Highbury, the former champions, but remains confident. She said: "We have managed some good practice sessions and are playing well as a unit, our main strength."

With the English Hockey Association's continued failure to secure sponsorship deals, preparations have proved expensive. The hotel bill for the qualifying weekend cost Chelmsford £700 and Bollington, 37, confirmed that a two-hour training session in an indoor hall costs £100. She said: "It makes it difficult to practise — we end up on various surfaces, in various venues at various times."

The good news is that Lorraine Marsden, the former England indoor and outdoor international, could make her first appearance for the club this season after recovering from illness. "She's just the sort of player you want on the bench. Her presence would really boost our chances," Bollington said.

In Prague, the England Under-21 indoor team open their campaign in the European Nations Cup against Slovakia today. However, one has to question the wisdom of spending more than £20,000 to send a poorly prepared twelve-strong squad, accompanied by eight officials, to a tournament snubbed by both Germany and Holland.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL
UNL-BALL TROPHY: Quarter-finals: Birmingham Bulls 72 Manchester Giants 96; Derby Storm 109 Newcastle Eagles 102; London Towers 81 Leicester Riders 82; Sheffield Sharks 82 Chester Jets 76. **BUNDESLIGA**: Quarter-finals: London Leopards 76 Edinburgh Rocks 72.

CRICKET
ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL: Kingsmead, South Africa 274-9 (50 overs) L. Klusener 64, W. J. Cronje 58, C. L. Hooper 4-52, West Indies 279 (65.1 overs) S. Chandapaul 52, South Africa best West Indies by 55 runs.

FOOTBALL
Premier League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

Football League: Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0.

SPORT IN BRIEF

WIMBLEDON: Michelle Smith-de Bruin will not have her appeal against a four-year suspension heard until May 3, the Court of Arbitration for Sport said yesterday.

A decision on the Irish triple Olympic champion's case was expected this month, but the four-month time limit to hear the appeal will be extended because of difficulties in bringing all parties together.

Smith-de Bruin was found guilty of tampering with her urine sample in an out-of-competition drugs test and banned by Fina, swimming's world governing body.

SQUASH: Jonathon Power, the world champion from Canada, beat Peter Nicol, the world No 1 from Scotland, 15-10, 15-4, 15-5 in the semi-finals of the

Tournament of Champions in New York yesterday. In the final, he will meet Ahmed Barada, of Egypt, the world No 3, who defeated Paul Johnson, of England, 15-10, 15-4, 15-14, 14-17, 15-8.

ROBBERY: London Broncos officials have been ordered to pay outstanding money from gate receipts to Halifax Blue Sox and Hull Kingston Rovers after apparently short-changing their opponents during the Challenge Cup last season.

Both Yorkshire clubs claimed to have received lower than expected receipts from their shared gates at The Stoop Memorial Ground.

ROWING: Continued rain and a swollen river has caused the Hampton Schools Head to move from its usual course at Molesey tomorrow.

The organisers have rescheduled the race on the Tideway at 2.45pm over a course from the London University boathouse to Chiswick Eyt. Hampton's first eight left off as the 1998 winners, chased by St Paul's and Westminster.

SQUASH: New York: Tournament of Champions: Semi-finals: Power (Can) vs Nicol (Sco) 15-10, 15-4, 15-5; A Barada (Egy) vs P Johnson (Eng) 15-10, 15-13, 17-14, 14-17, 15-8.

TENNIS: Melbourne: Australian Open: Semi-finals: R. Federer (S) vs P. R. R. (A) 6-3, 7-5, 6-1; D. Nalbandian (A) vs P. R. R. (A) 6-3, 7-5, 6-1.

NEW YORK: Tournament of Champions: Semi-finals: Power (Can) vs Nicol (Sco) 15-10, 15-4, 15-5; A Barada (Egy) vs P Johnson (Eng) 15-10, 15-13, 17-14, 14-17, 15-8.

TENNIS: Melbourne: Australian Open: Semi-finals: R. Federer (S) vs P. R. R. (A) 6-3, 7-5, 6-1; D. Nalbandian (A) vs P. R. R. (A) 6-3, 7-5, 6-1.

NEW YORK: Tournament of Champions: Semi-finals: Power (Can) vs Nicol (Sco) 15-10, 15-4, 15-5; A Barada (Egy) vs P Johnson (Eng) 15-10, 15-13, 17-14, 14-17, 15-8.

TENNIS: Melbourne: Australian Open: Semi-finals: R. Federer (S) vs P. R. R. (A) 6-3, 7-5, 6-1; D. Nalbandian (A) vs P. R. R. (A) 6-3, 7-5, 6-1.

NEW YORK: Tournament of Champions: Semi-finals: Power (Can) vs Nicol (Sco) 15-10, 15-4, 15-5; A Barada (Egy) vs P Johnson (Eng) 15-10, 15-13, 17-14, 14-17, 15-8.

TENNIS: Melbourne: Australian Open: Semi-finals: R. Federer (S) vs P. R. R. (A) 6-3, 7-5, 6-1; D. Nalbandian (A) vs P. R. R. (A) 6-3, 7-5, 6-1.

NEW YORK: Tournament of Champions: Semi-finals: Power (Can) vs Nicol (Sco) 15-10, 15-4, 15-5; A Barada (Egy) vs P Johnson (Eng) 15-10, 15-13, 17-14, 14-17, 15-8.

TENNIS: Melbourne: Australian Open: Semi-finals: R. Federer (S) vs P. R. R. (A) 6-3, 7-5, 6-1; D. Nalbandian (A) vs P. R. R. (A) 6-3, 7-5, 6-1.

NEW YORK: Tournament of Champions: Semi-finals: Power (Can) vs Nicol (Sco) 15-10, 15-4, 15-5; A Barada (Egy) vs P Johnson (Eng) 15-10, 15-13, 17-14, 14-17, 15-8.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 41 - Responding Round-up

We have now covered all the basic responses to opening bids at the one level so here is a quiz to test your understanding.

What would you respond to your partner's One Heart opening on the following hands?

(A) ♠ K J 10 5 (B) ♠ K Q 4 3 (C) ♠ K J 10 6 5

♥ 5 4 3 2 ♥ 4 3 ♥ 9 8

♦ A Q 5 ♦ Q J 10 7 2 ♦ A K 10 8 5

♣ 7 6 ♣ 7 6 ♣ 3

(D) ♠ A 4 (E) ♠ K 10 3 (F) ♠ 6 5 4 3

♥ A K 7 ♥ K 2 ♥ 9

♦ J 10 7 6 ♦ K J 10 7 ♦ A K Q 8 7 6

♣ Q 10 6 5 ♣ K 8 7 ♣ 4 3

With Hand (A) raise to Three Hearts. You have found an eight-card fit so there is no need to bid your spades. On Hand (B) you don't have enough to bid at the two level so start with One Spade. Hand (C) is not a trick question. Just start with One Spade. On Hand (D), with 8 HCP, you don't have enough to bid at the two level but you can't support partner with only three cards, so start with One No-Trump. Hand (E) is perfect for an immediate jump to Three No-Trumps. On Hand (F) I would bid Two Diamonds and then rebid Three Diamonds if partner bid Two Hearts. Sometimes we might miss a 4-4 spade fit but it goes against the grain not to bid such a good suit at all.

There are just a couple of refinements we have not yet covered. What would you respond to your partner's One Club opening?

(G) ♠ A Q 4 3 (H) ♠ A Q 4 3 (I) ♠ A J 4 3

♥ A K 3 ♥ A K 3 ♥ 8 8

♦ J 10 7 6 ♦ K J 10 7 ♦ Q 10 7 6

♣ 7 6 5 ♣ 7 6 5 ♣ K 6 4 3

There is a convention that a One No-Trump response to a One Club opening shows 8-10 HCP, slightly more than over other openings. This is because you must have an alternative. If you had a four-card suit other than clubs you could bid it; whereas if you had four clubs you could raise partner's suit. So with Hand (G) respond One Diamond, with Hand (H) respond One No-Trump (it is better to make a descriptive limit bid if you can) and with Hand (I) raise to Two Clubs, a response which denies a good four-card major suit.

You can get any lesson you may have missed from this beginners' course by sending 20p stamps per lesson (or five stamps per set of five) to Sally Brock, 73 Tottenham Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7QA. Don't forget to state which ones you want.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AGATHISM

a. Morbid fear of aunts
b. Things are getting better
c. Allergy to sugar

BREVET

a. The young weasel
b. A message
c. A lateral drain

AGEE

a. An elderly woman
b. A nightcap
c. Crooked

BELGARD

a. A tower
b. A loving look
c. An arrow slit

Answers on page 54

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kramnik wins

One of the most dangerous players in the Wijk aan Zee tournament is Vladimir Kramnik, the Russian grandmaster. Kramnik is distinguished by an excellent score against Kasparov himself over their many encounters. In today's game Kramnik defeats Alexander Yermolinsky, a former Russian player who now represents the United States.

White: V Kramnik
Black: A Yermolinsky
Wijk aan Zee 1999

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 Qd7 5. Bg5 Nd7 6. e3 b6 7. Ng2 Bb7 8. Bb3 Bxc3+ 9. Nxc3 Nc5 10. Bb4 O-O 11. f3 c5 12. dxc5 dxc5 13. O-O-O Qe7 14. Be2 Bb6 15. g4 Ne5 16. Re3+ Re8 17. Rf1 Be6 18. Bg3 Ng5 19. Bg2 Qd7 20. Bc2 Qc7 21. b4 Nh7 22. Rd1 Re8 23. Nc5 Bb6 24. cxb6 Nxb6 25. g5 h6 26. h5 Ng5 27. Qc2 Qe7 28. Qd4 Ne7 29. f4 e5 30. f5 Nf4 31. Bxf4 exf4 32. g6 Qxg6 33. gxf7+ Rxf7 34. Bf5+ Rf8 35. Bf6+ Rf8 36. Bxf8 Rxf8 37. Rxf8 Rxf8

Diagram of final position

Carrom

Carrom is a board game popular in India but fast growing in the UK. It combines elements of chess and billiards. Leading results in the UK Open Carrom Championship were: 1. Kamal Abedin, 2. Saleh Ahmed, 3. Nazrul Islam.

Wijk aan Zee website

The Wijk aan Zee website can be followed on chess2lostcity.nl/hoogovens/

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions will be published here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Szabo - Donner, Goteborg, 1955. The black king seems very well defended by the bishop pair, but White now proved that this is not the case. Can you see how?

Solution on page 54

SNOW REPORTS							
	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to	Weather			
	L	U	Piste	Resort	Altitude	(Temp)	Last snow
						C	
Austria							
Sölden	80	100	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	2 20%
Austria							
Kitzbühel	50	116	Fair	Open	Powder	Snow	- 20%
Obertauern	45	80	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 20%
Sölden	40	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 20%
Canada							
Lake Louise	130	177	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	- 20%
France							
Alpe d'Huez	93	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 20%
Avoriaz	120	150	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 20%
Flaine	110	250	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 20%
La Plagne	110	190	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 20%
Les Arcs	105	140	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 20%
Les Arcs	98	225	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 4 20%
Megève	60	150	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	0 20%
Meribel	70	120	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 3 20%
Tignes	95	190	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 4 20%
Val Thorens	70	120	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 4 20%
Val d'Isère	105	150	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 2 20%
Italy							
Cervinia	75	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 5 20%
Corvara	40	80	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	- 5 20%
Switzerland							
Crans Montana	30	145	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 8 20%
Davos	80	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 2 20%
Grindelwald	50	160	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 2 20%
Ischgl	40	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 3 20%
Mürren	30	140	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 2 20%
Saas Fee	30	230	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 2 20%
St. Moritz	40	160	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 3 20%
Verbena	40	160	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 3 20%
Wengen	40	160	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 3 20%
Zermatt	30	130	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	- 1 20%
Japan							
Niseko	105	120	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	- 3 20%
Deer Valley	105	170	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	- 0 20%

<http://www.skiusa.com/us/ski>

L = lower slopes U = upper slopes

Vaughan digs in to rescue position

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS
IN KWEKWE

KWEKWE (third day of four): England A, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 111 runs behind the ZCU President's XI

DOUR, determined and correct, Michael Vaughan offered England A a passage to safety as the Presidents XI struggled to continue their dominance at the Kwekwe Sports Club. In the face of a 226-run first-innings deficit, and the best part of five sessions remaining, Vaughan batted for nearly four hours over an unbeaten 69, an innings that has gone a long way to redeeming the profligacy of their batting on the opening day.

Each and every run to which Andy Flower and the President XI's tail had helped themselves in the morning would have driven home the folly of their carefree stroke-play on Tuesday.

On this occasion, Vaughan and Robert Key were able to build a platform from which the match should be saved — but not without considerable slices of luck. Vaughan edged consecutive deliveries from Bernard Pswarayi for boundaries — both at shoulder height either side of third slip — and Key touched the same, luckless bowler to the wicket-keeper soon after, only for the umpire to signal a no-ball.

When Key eventually fell before, pushing forward to Dan Peacock, the opening partnership had reached 70, at barely more than two runs an over.

Mal Loye dusted down the cobwebs with a straight six off Peacock but then settled down, rarely troubled by a bowling attack that lacked bite.

The England bowling was markedly more disciplined, but Andy Flower patiently took his overnight century on to 194 before running out of partners shortly after lunch. A brief cameo of 44 from 38 balls from Gus MacKay broke up the bowlers' rhythm before Jason Lewry returned to capture the last two wickets.

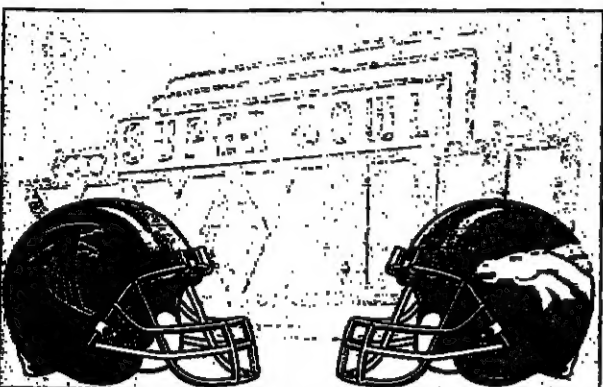
ENGLAND A: First Innings 257 (M G N Windows 89, A Finch 61).

Second Innings
R W P Key b Peacock... 25
M G N Windows not out... 89
A Finch not out... 61
M S Lewis not out... 15
Extras (lb 1, nb 5)... 6
Total (all wickets)... 115

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-78; 2-100; 3-130; 4-130; 5-130; 6-130; 7-130; 8-130; 9-130; 10-130; 11-130; 12-130; 13-130; 14-130; 15-130; 16-130; 17-130; 18-130; 19-130; 20-130; 21-130; 22-130; 23-130; 24-130; 25-130; 26-130; 27-130; 28-130; 29-130; 30-130; 31-130; 32-130; 33-130; 34-130; 35-130; 36-130; 37-130; 38-130; 39-130; 40-130; 41-130; 42-130; 43-130; 44-130; 45-130; 46-130; 47-130; 48-130; 49-130; 50-130; 51-130; 52-130; 53-130; 54-130; 55-130; 56-130; 57-130; 58-130; 59-130; 60-130; 61-130; 62-130; 63-130; 64-130; 65-130; 66-130; 67-130; 68-130; 69-130; 70-130; 71-130; 72-130; 73-130; 74-130; 75-130; 76-130; 77-130; 78-130; 79-130; 80-130; 81-130; 82-130; 83-130; 84-130; 85-130; 86-130; 87-130; 88-130; 89-130; 90-130; 91-130; 92-130; 93-130; 94-130; 95-130; 96-130; 97-130; 98-130; 99-130; 100-130; 101-130; 102-130; 103-130; 104-130; 105-130; 106-130; 107-130; 108-130; 109-130; 110-130; 111-130; 112-130; 113-130; 114-130; 115-130; 116-130; 117-130; 118-130; 119-130; 120-130; 121-130; 122-130; 123-130; 124-130; 125-130; 126-130; 127-130; 128-130; 129-130; 130-130; 131-130; 132-130; 133-130; 134-130; 135-130; 136-130; 137-130; 138-130; 139-130; 140-130; 141-130; 142-130; 143-130; 144-130; 145-130; 146-130; 147-130; 148-130; 149-130; 150-130; 151-130; 152-130; 153-130; 154-130; 155-130; 156-130; 157-130; 158-130; 159-130; 160-130; 161-130; 162-130; 163-130; 164-130; 165-130; 166-130; 167-130; 168-130; 169-130; 170-130; 171-130; 172-130; 173-130; 174-130; 175-130; 176-130; 177-130; 178-130; 179-130; 180-130; 181-130; 182-130; 183-130; 184-130; 185-130; 186-130; 187-130; 188-130; 189-130; 190-130; 191-130; 192-130; 193-130; 194-130; 195-130; 196-130; 197-130; 198-130; 199-130; 200-130; 201-130; 202-130; 203-130; 204-130; 205-130; 206-130; 207-130; 208-130; 209-130; 210-130; 211-130; 212-130; 213-130; 214-130; 215-130; 216-130; 217-130; 218-130; 219-130; 220-130; 221-130; 222-130; 223-130; 224-130; 225-130; 226-130; 227-130; 228-130; 229-130; 230-130; 231-130; 232-130; 233-130; 234-130; 235-130; 236-130; 237-130; 238-130; 239-130; 240-130; 241-130; 242-130; 243-130; 244-130; 245-130; 246-130; 247-130; 248-130; 249-130; 250-130; 251-130; 252-130; 253-130; 254-130; 255-130; 256-130; 257-130; 258-130; 259-130; 260-130; 261-130; 262-130; 263-130; 264-130; 265-130; 266-130; 267-130; 268-130; 269-130; 270-130; 271-130; 272-130; 273-130; 274-130; 275-130; 276-130; 277-130; 278-130; 279-130; 280-130; 281-130; 282-130; 283-130; 284-130; 285-130; 286-130; 287-130; 288-130; 289-130; 290-130; 291-130; 292-130; 293-130; 294-130; 295-130; 296-130; 297-130; 298-130; 299-130; 300-130; 301-130; 302-130; 303-130; 304-130; 305-130; 306-130; 307-130; 308-130; 309-130; 310-130; 311-130; 312-130; 313-130; 314-130; 315-130; 316-130; 317-130; 318-130; 319-130; 320-130; 321-130; 322-130; 323-130; 324-130; 325-130; 326-130; 327-130; 328-130; 329-130; 330-130; 331-130; 332-130; 333-130; 334-130; 335-130; 336-130; 337-130; 338-130; 339-130; 340-130; 341-130; 342-130; 343-130; 344-130; 345-130; 346-130; 347-130; 348-130; 349-130; 350-130; 351-130; 352-130; 353-130; 354-130; 355-130; 356-130; 357-130; 358-130; 359-130; 360-130; 361-130; 362-130; 363-130; 364-130; 365-130; 366-130; 367-130; 368-130; 369-130; 370-130; 371-130; 372-130; 373-130; 374-130; 375-130; 376-130; 377-130; 378-130; 379-130; 380-130; 381-130; 382-130; 383-130; 384-130; 385-130; 386-130; 387-130; 388-130; 389-130; 390-130; 391-130; 392-130; 393-130; 394-130; 395-130; 396-130; 397-130; 398-130; 399-130; 400-130; 401-130; 402-130; 403-130; 404-130; 405-130; 406-130; 407-130; 408-130; 409-130; 410-130; 411-130; 412-130; 413-130; 414-130; 415-130; 416-130; 417-130; 418-130; 419-130; 420-130; 421-130; 422-130; 423-130; 424-130; 425-130; 426-130; 427-130; 428-130; 429-130; 430-130; 431-130; 432-130; 433-130; 434-130; 435-130; 436-130; 437-130; 438-130; 439-130; 440-130; 441-130; 442-130; 443-130; 444-130; 445-130; 446-130; 447-130; 448-130; 449-130; 450-130; 451-130; 452-130; 453-130; 454-130; 455-130; 456-130; 457-130; 458-130; 459-130; 460-130; 461-130; 462-130; 463-130; 464-130; 465-130; 466-130; 467-130; 468-130; 469-130; 470-130; 471-130; 472-130; 473-130; 474-130; 475-130; 476-130; 477-130; 478-130; 479-130; 480-130; 481-130; 482-130; 483-130; 484-130; 485-130; 486-130; 487-130; 488-130; 489-130; 490-130; 491-130; 492-130; 493-130; 494-130; 495-130; 496-130; 497-130; 498-130; 499-130; 500-130; 501-130; 502-130; 503-130; 504-130; 505-130; 506-130; 507-130; 508-130; 509-130; 510-130; 511-130; 512-130; 513-130; 514-130; 515-130; 516-130; 517-130; 518-130; 519-130; 520-130; 521-130; 522-130; 523-130; 524-130; 525-130; 526-130; 527-130; 528-130; 529-130; 530-130; 531-130; 532-130; 533-130; 534-130; 535-130; 536-130; 537-130; 538-130; 539-130; 540-130; 541-130; 542-130; 543-130; 544-130; 545-130; 546-130; 547-130; 548-130; 549-130; 550-130; 551-130; 552-130; 553-130; 554-130; 555-130; 556-130; 557-130; 558-130; 559-130; 560-130; 561-130; 562-130; 563-130; 564-130; 565-130; 566-130; 567-130; 568-130; 569-130; 570-130; 571-130; 572-130; 573-130; 574-130; 575-130; 576-130; 577-130; 578-130; 579-130; 580-130; 581-130; 582-130; 583-130; 584-130; 585-130; 586-130; 587-130; 588-130; 589-130; 590-130; 591-130; 592-130; 593-130; 594-130; 595-130; 596-130; 597-130; 598-130; 599-130; 600-130; 601-130; 602-130; 603-130; 604-130; 605-130; 606-130; 607-130; 608-130; 609-130; 610-130; 611-130; 612-130; 613-130; 614-130; 615-130; 616-130; 617-130; 618-130; 619-130; 620-130; 621-130; 622-130; 623-130; 624-130; 625-130; 626-130; 627-130; 628-130; 629-130; 630-130; 631-130; 632-130; 633-130; 634-130; 635-130; 636-130; 637-130; 638-130; 639-130; 640-130; 641-130; 642-130; 643-130; 644-130; 645-130; 646-130; 647-130; 648-130; 649-130; 650-130; 651-130; 652-130; 653-130; 654-130; 655-130; 656-130; 657-130; 658-130; 659-130; 660-130; 661-130; 662-130; 663-130; 664-130; 665-130; 666-130; 667-130; 668-130; 669-130; 670-130; 671-130; 672-130; 673-130; 674-130; 675-130; 676-130; 677-130; 678-130; 679-130; 680-130; 681-130; 682-130; 683-130; 684-130; 685-130; 686-130; 687-130; 688-130; 689-130; 690-130; 691-130; 692-130; 693-130; 694-130; 695-130; 696-130; 697-130; 698-130; 699-130; 700-130; 701-130; 702-130; 703-130; 704-130; 705-130; 706-130; 707-130; 708-130; 709-130; 710-130; 711-130; 712-130; 713-130; 714-130; 715-130; 716-130; 717-130; 718-130; 719-130; 720-130; 721-130; 722-130; 723-130; 724-130; 725-130; 726-130; 727-130; 728-130; 729-130; 730-130; 731-130; 732-130; 733-130; 734-130; 735-130; 736-130; 737-130; 738-130; 739-130; 740-130; 741-130; 742-130; 743-130; 744-130; 745-130; 746-130; 747-130; 748-130; 749-130; 750-130; 751-130; 752-130; 753-130; 754-130; 755-130; 756-130; 757-130; 758-130; 759-130; 760-130; 761-130; 762-130; 763-130; 764-130; 765-130; 766-130; 767-130; 768-130; 769-130; 770-130; 771-130; 772-130; 773-130; 774-130; 775-130; 776-130; 777-130; 778-130; 779-130; 780-130; 781-130; 782-130; 783-130; 784-130; 785-130; 786-130; 787-130; 788-130; 789-130; 790-130; 791-130; 792-130; 793-130; 794-130; 795-130; 796-130; 797-130; 798-130; 799-130; 800-130; 801-130; 802-130; 803-130; 804-130; 805-130; 806-130; 807-130; 808-130; 809-130; 810-130; 811-130; 812-130; 813-130; 814-130; 815-130; 816-130; 817-130; 818-130; 819-130; 820-130; 821-130; 822-130; 823-130; 824-130; 825-130; 826-130; 827-130; 828-130; 829-130; 830-130; 831-130; 832-130; 833-130; 834-130; 835-130; 836-130; 837-130; 838-130; 839-130; 840-130; 841-130; 842-130; 843-130; 844-130; 845-130; 846-130; 847-130; 848-130; 849-130; 850-130; 851-130; 852-130; 853-130; 854-130; 855-130; 856-130; 857-130; 858-130; 859-130; 860-130; 861-130; 862-130; 863-130; 864-130; 865-130; 866-130; 867-130; 868-130; 869-130; 870-130; 871-130; 872-130; 873-130; 874-130; 875-130; 876-130; 877-130; 878-130; 879-130; 880-130; 881-130; 882-130; 883-130; 884-130; 885-130; 886-130; 887-130; 888-130; 889-130; 890-130; 891-130; 892-130; 893-130; 894-130; 895-130; 896-130; 897-130; 898-130; 899-130; 900-130; 901-130; 902-130; 903-130; 904-130; 905-130; 906-130; 907-130; 908-130; 909-130; 910-130; 911-130; 912-130; 913-130; 914-130; 915-130; 916-130; 917-130; 918-130; 919-130; 920-130; 921-130; 922-130; 923-130; 924-130; 925-130; 926-130; 927-130; 928-130; 929-130; 930-130; 931-130; 932-130; 933-130; 934-130; 935-130; 936-130; 937-130; 938-130; 939-130; 940-130; 941-130; 942-130; 943-130; 944-130; 945-130; 946-130; 947-130; 948-130; 949-130; 950-130; 951-130; 952-130; 953-130; 954-130; 955-130; 956-130; 957-130; 958-130; 959-130; 960-130; 961-130; 962-130; 963-130; 964-130; 965-130; 966-130; 967-130; 968-130; 969-130; 970-130; 971-130; 972-130; 973-130; 974-130; 975-130; 976-130; 977-130; 978-130; 979-130; 980-130; 981-130; 982-130; 983-130; 984-130; 985-130; 986-130; 987-130; 988-130; 989-130; 990-130; 991-130; 992-130; 993-130; 994-130; 995-130; 996-130; 997-130; 998-130; 999-130; 1000-130; 1001-130; 1002-130; 1003-130; 1004-130; 1005-130; 1006-130; 1007-130; 1008-130; 1009-130; 1010-130; 1011-130; 1012-130; 1013-130; 1014-130; 1015-130; 1016-130; 1017-130; 1018-130; 1019-130; 1020-130; 1021-130; 1022-130; 1023-130; 1024-130; 1025-130; 1026-130; 1027-130; 1028-130; 1029-130; 1030-130; 1031-130; 1032-130; 1033-130; 1034-130; 1035-130; 1036-130; 1037-130; 1038-130; 1039-130; 1040-130; 1041-130; 1042-130; 1043-130; 1044-130; 1045-130; 1046-130; 1047-130; 1048-130; 1049-130; 1050-130; 1051-130; 1052-130; 1053-130; 1054-130; 1055-130; 1056-130; 1057-130; 1058-130; 1059-130; 1060-130; 1061-130; 1062-130; 1063-130; 1064-130; 1065-130; 1066-130; 1067-130; 1068-130; 1069-130; 1070-130; 1071-130; 1072-130; 1073-130; 1074-130; 1075-130; 1076-130; 1077-130; 1078-130; 1079-130; 1080-130; 1081-130; 1082-130; 1083-130; 1084-130; 1085-130; 1086-130; 1087-130; 1088-130; 1089-130; 1090-130; 1091-130; 1092-130; 1093-130; 1094-130; 1095-130; 1096-130; 1097-130; 1098-130; 1099-130; 1100-130; 1101-130; 1102-130; 1103-130; 1104-130; 1105-130; 1106-130; 1107-130; 1108-130; 1109-130; 1110-130; 1111-130; 1112-130; 1113-130; 1114-130; 1115-130; 1116-130; 1117-130; 1118-130; 1119-130; 1120-130; 1121-130; 1122-130; 1123-130; 1124-130; 1125-130; 1126-130; 1127-130; 1128-130; 1129-130; 1130-130; 1131-130; 1132-130; 1133-130; 1134-130; 1135-130; 1136-130; 1137-130; 1138-130; 1139-130; 1140-130; 1141-130; 1142-130; 1143-130; 1144-130; 1145-130; 1146-130; 1147-130; 1148-130; 1149-130; 1150-130; 1151-130; 1152-130; 1153-130; 1154-130; 1155-130; 1156-130; 1157-130; 1158-130; 1159-130; 1160-130; 1161-130; 1162-130; 1163-130; 1164-130; 1165-130; 1166-130; 1167-130; 1168-130; 1169-130; 1170-130; 1171-130; 1172-130; 1173-130; 1174-130; 1175-130; 1176-130; 1177-130; 1178-130; 1179-130; 1180-130; 1181-130; 1182-130; 1183-130; 1184-130; 1185-130; 1186-130; 1187-130; 1188-130; 1189-130; 1190-130; 1191-130; 1192-130; 1193-130; 1194-130; 1195-130; 1196-130; 1197-130; 1198-130; 1199-130; 1200-130; 1201-130; 1202-130; 1203-130; 1204-130; 1205-130; 1206-130; 1207-130; 1208-130; 1209-130; 1210-130; 1211-130; 1212-130; 1213-130; 1214-130; 1215-130; 1216-130; 1217-130; 1218-130; 1219-130; 1220-130; 1221-130; 1222-130; 1223-130; 1224-130; 1225-130; 1226-130; 1227-130; 1228-130; 1229-130; 1230-130; 1231-130; 1232-130; 1233-130; 1234-130; 1235-130; 1236-130; 1237-130; 1238-130; 1239-130; 1240-130; 1241-130; 1242-130; 1243-130; 1244-130; 1245-130; 1246-130; 1247-

Chandler finally rekindles career on the wane

Oliver Holt in Miami meets the quarterback who came good at last



To his right, the brash, trash-talking young running back was spreading his mouth off and spreading his mouth. "Every day is a good day for Jamal Anderson," Jamal Anderson was saying as he stroked his bejewelled neck and did his best to project the image of insolence and utter invulnerability that is *de rigueur* in Super Bowl week. Chris Chandler shot him a sideways glance, smiled thinly and rubbed his bald patch.

Most people have never heard of Chandler. Until fortune smiled and planted his sweet kiss on him last season, he was the Nowhere Man of American football, a journeyman quarterback, drifting from team to team, biling hard on rejection after rejection. He was sliding towards oblivion. "I thought I was finished," he said yesterday. "My career felt like slow death."

While men such as John Elway, his opposite number on Sunday, had progressions so glided that they could actually afford to refuse to play for a team that they had been drafted by, Chandler, 33, got used to being shown the door just when he thought he had made it. Round-faced and balding, he said yesterday a golden boy in the mould of Elway, Joe Montana or Troy Aikman. He did not even look the part. Such has been the transformation, though, that when he leads the Atlanta Falcons into their match against Elway's

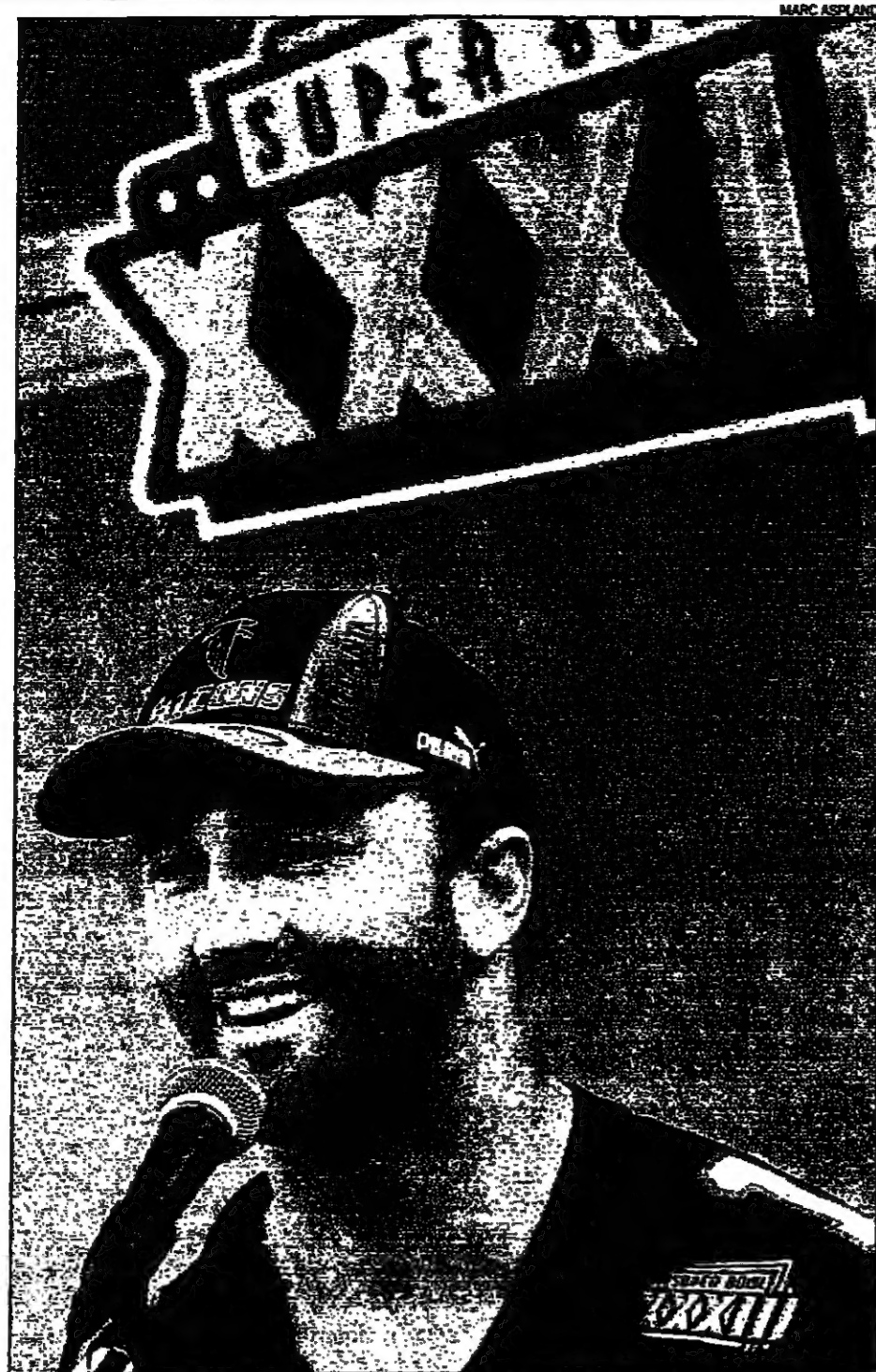
Denver Broncos at Pro Football Stadium here, many observers are convinced that he has proved himself the better of the two. In his perpetual search for examples of the existence of the American Dream, the nation is latching on to the rise of a man who was "one step away from the cheese line".

Chandler is a worthy subject of their admiration. He admits to weaknesses and mistakes, something increasingly rare in professional sport. He admits that he, more than anyone else, was at fault for his failures and he laughs at the leanness of those who say now, after one season of success, that he is better than Elway, better than the best. "To me, that is absurd," he said. "That amuses me."

His problems began soon after he joined the Indianapolis Colts, his first team, in 1988.



Chandler: transformation



Atlanta have been richly rewarded for putting their trust in the straight-talking Chandler

At the start of his second year he suffered a knee injury, so the Colts drafted a new quarterback and Chandler was moved on to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He spent two years as second string to Vinny Testaverde, "two years of not knowing why I was there".

Things seemed to have taken a turn for the better when he joined the Phoenix Cardinals in 1991, changed his attitude and decided that he needed to learn more about his trade and rid himself of some of the bitterness that had gripped him. "I thought I had all the answers back then," he said. "But I found out I didn't actually have many at all."

Chandler had an excellent season for the Cardinals in 1992, but at the beginning of 1993 Phoenix signed Steve Buehler and chose to start with him. He went to the Los Angeles Rams, who preferred to start with Chris Miller, and from there to the Houston Oilers, who promptly signed Steve McNair. He seemed condemned to a career in the purgatory of mediocrity.

Then, at the start of last season, Dan Reeves, the Atlanta

coach, signed him as a stop-gap, but Chandler surprised him with his accuracy and his durability, and gradually he gained his confidence.

This season, Reeves made it clear that he was putting all his faith in Chandler, who responded by inspiring the Falcons to 16 victories in 18 games and by orchestrating the drive that earned them their surprise win over the Minnesota Vikings a fortnight ago and booked the Falcons' place in their first Super Bowl.

"A few years ago, I never thought this would happen," he said. "Of course, I dream about it, but as the years went by the reality of it seemed further and further away. I usually agree with people when they say I have had a weird route to get here. But forgetting about what has happened in the past is the best way of dealing with it all for me."

"I didn't handle the whole

thing very well in the early days of my career. I was very immature and I said all sorts of stupid things. In retrospect, I thought I might have reached the end of the road several times. A couple of stops ago, I thought I was probably the last stop. I never knew when my time was going to be up, when I was going to be leaving a team. I just tried to hang in there."

"I just feel fortunate that Dan Reeves has said that I am the one here, that the Falcons are going to win or lose with me. It is the first time that any organisation has put their trust in me. It is the first time that anybody has shown me any real commitment and I think the results speak for themselves."

To complete the picture, every one of the coaches who lost their faith in Chandler lost their jobs soon afterwards. The Falcons have just awarded him a four-year, \$25 million contract extension with a \$6 million signing bonus. In every other NFL city in which he played, Chandler always rented a house. Last month, at last, he bought one.

LINKS
www.espn.com
www.nfl.com
TV: Sports One, Sunday 10.30pm (free)

SNOOKER

Bingham keeps calm to humble Higgins

STUART BINGHAM, who marked his debut in the final stages of a world-ranking tournament by beating Tony Drago 5-0 on Monday, expanded his giant-killing portfolio with a 5-4 defeat of John Higgins in the last 16 of the Welsh Open at Cardiff yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

Bingham compiled breaks of 61 and 57 in building a 3-0 lead but Higgins fought back to 4-4. It looked a classic case of an inexperienced hopeful freezing on the threshold of overcoming one of the game's most easily recognisable figures, but Bingham retained sufficient composure to win an extremely scrappy decider.

"I've never done anything

remotely like this before. I'm speechless," Bingham said. He now meets Peter Ebdon or Joe Swail in the next round. Stephen Hendry compiled breaks of 64, 54, 107 and 84 during his 5-4 victory over Matthew Stevens. The Scot restricted Stevens to a single point in recovering from a 4-3 deficit.

Steve Davis improved his chances of remaining in the top 16 in the rankings for an unprecedented twentieth consecutive season by tactically outwitting Fergal O'Brien on the way to a 5-0 win based more on guile than potting prowess.

Results, page 50

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 50

AGATHISM

(b) The doctrine that all things tend towards ultimate good, as distinguished from optimism which holds that all things are now for the best. The Greek *agathos* means "good". "Willful evil, to the degree implied in the distinction between Agathism and Optimism, is inconsistent with our apprehension of His [ie. God's] nature".

BREVET

(a) An official or authoritative message in writing, especially a Papal Indulgence. From the French diminutive of *bref* a letter. In the Army, a document conferring nominal rank on an officer, but giving no right to extra pay. "This worthy Kyng hath his brevets and his letters sent for his lordes to holde a parliament."

AGEE

(c) Aside. On or to one side. Away, off from the straight line. From A a preposition of state - ie. a call to a horse to move to one side. (1837: "A looking-glass that don't make you look as if your face was all agee.")

BELGARD

(b) A kind or loving look. An English adaptation of the Italian *bel guardo*, "lovely look". Spenser, *Faerie Queene*, 1590: "Upon her eyelids many graces saw... Working belgards and amorous re-ate."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1. Nxb6+ hxb6; 2. Qb6+ and mate follows.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A docusoap with dignity

Country House
BBC2, 7.30pm

Although the strategy is conventional, a characterised narrative with a raft of overlapping stories, the documentary soap about Woburn Abbey continues to be different from most others of the genre. Dramas are not manufactured for the sake of grabbing viewers and the series eschews the usual jokey commentary delivered by a celebrity voice. But the low-key approach can be effective, allowing us to absorb the subject at our own pace and without feeling that we are being shouted at. Lord Tavistock's painstaking attempts to regain his facility with words after a stroke are relayed in quiet detail, as is Lady Tavistock's guarded delight at the emergence of a promising new racehorse.

Airline
ITV, 8.00pm

The everyday story of easyjet continues to evoke the world of cheap flights and the culture of the masses. Central to this is football and in tonight's episode some fans are off to France for the World Cup. Or would be, had the flight not been cancelled. There follows rapid boarding with passengers on another plane in the hope they can be bribed to swap their seats. Meanwhile Stelios, easyjet's young owner, is off to Seattle to buy new planes and Katrina, the check-in girl, is getting ready for his wedding. No programme would be complete without an awkward traveller. The latest is a young backpacker who has managed to get as far as Luton, by way of India and Australia, but will go no further unless he produces his passport.

Was It Good For You?
Channel 5, 8.00pm

Not so long ago any programme about naturism would have been newsworthy, let alone one going out at peak time. Familiarity may not breed contempt but it does reduce novelty value and we have seen so many naked bodies on the screen in recent weeks that a few more are neither here nor there. Alastair Greenhalgh's report on two British couples holidaying in the buff in southern Spain is, in any case, sensible and snigger-free (except when it comes to Greenhalgh himself, who is happy to watch others stripping off but is coy about doing it



Helen Ludbrook and Mark Banville enjoy a naturalist holiday in Spain (Channel 5, 8pm)

herself). Mary and Chris, in their late fifties, are seasoned naturists and say it has helped to strengthen their marriage. Helen, twenty-something at a guess, also likes to holiday in the nude but for her boyfriend Mark it is the first time.

Garden Stories
BBC2, 8.30pm

When 14 of his immediate family died one after the other, Tony Wilkinson became so depressed that he started to drink heavily and contemplated suicide. Life had no further interest for him. Then he bought a copy of a gardening magazine, decided to plant the free seeds which came with it and thus started a process of gradual recovery, during which he came off the drink, saved his marriage and created a magnificent garden with 7,000 annuals. There can be no greater testament to the healing powers of gardening, though it is only one of many stories collected for this programme. We hear from a man who found solace in his garden after losing the mother to whom he was devoted and we visit a prison garden the care and planning of which is helping to rehabilitate a group of offenders.

Peter Waymark
Correction: Captain Robin Woodall was exonerated by Cunard Line after the QE2 ran aground in 1992, and returned to his command, retiring in 1994 (TV Choice, January 18).

RADIO CHOICE

Jazz Century
Radio 3, 11.30pm

This is the repeat slot for the *Sounding the Century* jazz history transmitting on Saturday evenings but it gets an airing here because the repeat is more convenient for many listeners. Tonight the focus is 1917, an important year for jazz because until then, no jazz recording had been made. The honour went to the Original Dixieland Jazz Band (ODJB) and there are plenty who think their fame rests more in their place in record history than their actual status as a jazz outfit. The ODJB's first recordings, as can be heard tonight, were notable for the fact that they tended to be formulaic, with very little improvisation. On the Real Gone Shows, the ODJB made absurd claims about its importance in the jazz pantheon.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00pm Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Paul Torm's Essential Selection 8.00 Judge Jules 11.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Grooverider 4.00 Emma B

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00pm Jimmy Young 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Sean Hughes 7.00 A Very British Story (4/4) 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.15 Frankenstein (3/5) 8.30 Listen to the Band 8.50 David Jacobs 11.00 Believe it or Not 12.00am Lynne Parsons 4.00 Lulu Shams

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 8.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00pm The Midday News 1.00 Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Extra. Presented by Susan Bookbinder 7.30 Alan Green's Sportscast. Includes commentary on Stoke v Manchester City and a preview of the weekend's Australian Open tennis final 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night 2.30 Australian Open Tennis. Jonathan Overend presents commentary on the ladies' singles final from Melbourne

VIRGIN

6.30am Denny Baker 8.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 7.00 Wheels of Steel 11.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00am Steve Power

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 8.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Rasmussen 3.00 ONY to Talk 5.00 The SportsZone 8.00 Jackie Mason Live from New York 10.00 Dave Barrett 1.00am Mike Dixon

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Patrice Trelawny. Includes a review of *Orchestra's The Forest*, which opened last night at the National Theatre
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hildy. Includes Vaughan Williams (Overture), Liszt (Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 10/3), and the *Wells Cathedral*
10.30 Artists of the Week: Michael Tippett
11.00 Sound Stories: The Tudors and the Stuarts
12.00am Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: David Hill, organist of Winchester Cathedral, joins forces with the period Stephen Connors for a duo recital
2.00 The BBC Orchestra: BBC Philharmonic under Paavo Järvi and Donald Hunt, Leonidas Kavakos, violin, Judith Howarth, soprano, Paul Whelan, baritone, Thina Chien, Chinese Flute
4.00 Music First: with Lucy Spong (r)
4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson
5.00 In Tune: Sean Rafferty is joined by the British rap group the Streets
7.30 Performance on 3 Live from St David's Hall, Cardiff. BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth, Maria Brunello, cello, Christine Brewer, soprano, Susan Buckley, mezzo, Ian Colley, tenor, Neal Davies, bass, Adrian Parkington.

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today Rural news 6.00 Today with John Humphries and Sue MacGregor 6.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament 9.00 Desert Island Discs Ruth Praver Jhabvala (r) 9.45 (FM) Serials: The Victorian Internet David Rutledge reads from Tom Stoppard's history of the electric telegraph (5/5) (r)
8.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 Women's Hour with Jenni Murray
11.00 Music on the Brain Peter Snow traces the origins of background music (r)
11.30 The Oldest Member: The Heart of a Goofer by P.G. Woodhouse, with Michael Fenton Stevens, Harry Atkinson Wood and Jon Glover (5/5)
12.00pm (FM) News
12.00 (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast
12.04 You and Yours Liz Barclay and John Wate
12.05 Today's programme issues
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Puzzle Panel Chris Maslanka presents riddles and brain-teasers
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: The Orchestra Comic study of the small-town gossip and back-biting within a brasserie orchestra in 1950s provincial France. With Joanna Wiles and James Ulfate (r)
3.00 Legged On Quentin Cooper assesses contemporary issues of the computer age
3.30 Despatcher Seeking Investigation into people who place newspaper small ads, and the results they achieve (r)
3.45 This Scattered Isle The history of Britain, with readings by Roger May
4.00 Open Book Humphrey Carpenter explores foreign fiction children. Plus, a look at the art of thriller writing (r)

organ, BBC National Chorus of Wales, City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus, Dvorak (Cello Concerto in B minor) 6.10 A Sound Road: Ivan Hewitt is joined by Fabio Luis Neuberger and critic and broadcaster Valentine Cunningham to review recently released books on music.30 Concert, part two, Janacek (Glagolice Mass), Liszt (Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 10/3), and the *Wells Cathedral*
9.25 Postscript: Dissenting Voices George Monbiot introduces excerpts from the writing of the 17th-century activist Gerard Winstanley
9.50 BBC Symphony Orchestra (Sounding the Century) A concert celebrating the work of the Italian composer Luigi Nono, born 75 years ago today. Conductor Tadaaki Otaka, Nicola Tubbis, soprano, Thomas Randle, tenor, Nicolas Hodges, piano, Anne Richard, sound projection
11.30 Jazz Century See Choice (r)
12.00am Composer of the Week: Purcell (r)
1.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod. 1.00 Bergen PO under Jonathan Nott: Wagner (Prelude and Liebestod, Tristan und Isolde); Sverdrup (Symphony No 1) 2.25 Beethoven (Piano Trio in B flat, Op 97, Archduke) 3.15 Beethoven (Triple Concerto in C) 3.55 Dvorak (Symphony No 9 in E minor, From the New World) 5.25 Rachmaninov (Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini)

4.30 The Message Alan Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 PM with Clare English and Eddie Mair
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Ghost of Number Ten: Lord Lofthouse, the eradicate world hunger at the G7.5 summit in Downing Street. Political larceny, by Steve Nallon and Taran All (4/5)
7.00 The Archers Hayley suffers a betrayal
7.15 Front Row: Franchise Stock presents the night arts programme
7.45 Inner Voices by Rhixie Beards Blair. Broadcast earlier as part of *Warrior's Hour* (5/10) (r)
8.00 Any Questions? Harriet Harman, Nicola Horlick, Peter Lilley and Andrew Phillips respond to questions from an audience in Bishop Stortford, Hertfordshire
8.45 Letter from America by Allison Cooke
9.00 The Friday Play: Jupiter An old man dreams of attracting a younger woman could prove his downfall. Stephen James's play. See Choice
10.00 The World Tonight with Robert Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Sound of Trumpets by John Mortimer. Terry Flinton suffers an unfortunate accident at the Harcombe Hunt and the subsequent has his picture emblazoned all over the papers
11.00 (FM only from 11.30) Late Night on 4: Late guests discuss the significance of American localist's Super Bowl
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Update from Westminster
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Round Ireland with a Fridge Final part of Tony Hawks' epic voyage around the Emerald Isle with his curious choice of travelling companion
12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. LW 720. LW 930.5. LW 939.5. LW 950.5. LW 960.5. LW 970.5. LW 980.5. LW 990.5. LW 1000.5. LW 1010.5. LW 1020.5. LW 1030.5. LW 1040.5. LW 1050.5. LW 1060.5. LW 1070.5. LW 1080.5. LW 1090.5. LW 1100.5. LW 1110.5. LW 1120.5. LW 1130.5. LW 1140.5. LW 1150.5. LW 1160.5. LW 1170.5. LW 1180.5. LW 1190.5. LW 1200.5. LW 1210.5. LW 1220.5. LW 1230.5. LW 1240.5. LW 1250.5. LW 1260.5. LW 1270.5. LW 1280.5. LW 1290.5. LW 1300.5. LW 1310.5. LW 1320.5. LW 1330.5. LW 1340.5. LW 1350.5. LW 1360.5. LW 1370.5. LW 1380.5. LW 1390.5. LW 1400.5. LW 1410.5. LW 1420.5. LW 1430.5. LW 1440.5. LW 1450.5. LW 1460.5. LW 1470.5. LW 1480.5. LW 1490.5. LW 1500.5. LW 1510.5. LW 1520.5. LW 1530.5. LW 1540.5. LW 1550.5. LW 1560.5. LW 1570.5. LW 1580.5. LW 1590.5. LW 1600.5. LW 1610.5. LW 1620.5. LW 1630.5. LW 1640.5. LW 1650.5. LW 1660.5. LW 1670.5. LW 1680.5. LW 1690.5. LW 1700.5. LW 1710.5. LW 1720.5. LW 1730.5. LW 1740.5. LW 1750.5. LW 1760.5. LW 1770.5. LW 1780.5. LW 1790.5. LW 1800.5. LW 1810.5. LW 1820.5. LW 1830.5. LW 1840.5. LW 1850.5. LW 1860.5. LW 1870.5. LW 1880.5. LW 1890.5. LW 1900.5. LW 1910.5. LW 1920.5. LW 1930.5. LW 1940.5. LW 1950.5. LW 1960.5. LW 1970.5. LW 1980.5. LW 1990.5. LW 2000.5. LW 2010.5. LW 2020.5. LW 2030.5. LW 2040.5. LW 2050.5. LW 2060.5. LW 2070.5. LW 2080.5. LW 2090.5. LW 2100.5. LW 2110.5. LW 2120.5. LW 2130.5. LW 2140.5. LW 2150.5. LW 2160.5. LW 2170.5. LW 2180.5. LW 2190.5. LW 2200.5. LW 2210.5. LW 2220.5. LW 2230.5. LW 2240.5. LW 2250.5. LW 2260.5. LW 2270.5. LW 2280.5. LW 2290.5. LW 2300.5. LW 2310.5. LW 2320.5. LW 2330.5. LW 2340.5. LW 2350.5. LW 2360.5. LW 2370.5. LW 2380.5. LW 2390.5. LW 2400.5. LW 2410.5. LW 2420.5. LW 2430.5. LW 2440.5. LW 2450.5. LW 2460.5. LW 2470.5. LW 2480.5. LW 2490.5. LW 2500.5. LW 2510.5. LW 2520.5. LW 2530.5. LW 2540.5. LW 2550.5. LW 2560.5. LW 2570.5. LW 2580.5. LW 2590.5. LW 2600.5. LW 2610.5. LW 2620.5. LW 2630.5. LW 2640.5. LW 2650.5. LW 2660.5. LW 2670.5. LW 2680.5. LW 2690.5. LW 2700.5. LW 2710.5. LW 2720.5. LW 2730.5. LW 2740.5. LW 2750.5. LW 2760.5. LW 2770.5. LW 2780.5. LW 2790.5. LW 2800.5. LW 2810.5. LW 2820.5. LW 2830.5. LW 2840.5. LW 2850.5. LW 2860.5. LW 2870.5. LW 2880.5. LW 2890.5. LW 2900.5. LW 2910.5. LW 2920.5. LW 2930.5. LW 2940.5. LW 2950.5. LW 2960.5. LW 2970.5. LW 2980.5. LW 2990.5. LW 3000.5. LW 3010.5. LW 3020.5. LW 3030.5. LW 3040.5. LW 3050.5. LW 3060.5. LW 3070.5. LW 3080.5. LW 3090.5. LW 3100.5. LW 3110.5. LW 3120.5. LW 3130.5. LW 3140.5. LW 3150.5. LW 3160.5. LW 3170.5. LW 3180.5. LW 3190.5. LW 3200.5. LW 3210.5. LW 3220.5. LW 3230.5. LW 3240.5. LW 3250.5. LW 3260.5. LW 3270.5. LW 3280.5. LW 3290.5. LW 3300.5. LW 3310.5. LW 3320.5. LW 3330.5. LW 3340.5. LW 3350.5. LW 3360.5. LW 3370.5. LW 3380.5. LW 3390.5. LW 3400.5. LW 3410.5. LW 3420.5. LW 3430.5. LW 3440.5. LW 3450.5. LW 3460.5. LW 3470.5. LW 3480.5. LW 3490.5. LW 3500.5. LW 3510.5. LW 3520.5. LW 3530.5. LW 3540.5. LW 3550.5. LW 3560.5. LW 3570.5. LW 3580.5. LW 3590.5. LW 3600.5. LW 3610.5. LW 3620.5. LW 3630.5. LW 3640.5. LW 3650.5. LW 3660.5. LW 3670.5. LW 3680.5. LW 3690.5. LW 3700.5. LW 3710.5. LW 3720.5. LW 3730.5. LW 3740.5. LW 3750.5. LW 3760.5. LW 3770.5. LW 3780.5. LW 3790.5. LW 3800.5. LW 3810.5. LW 3820.5. LW 3830.5. LW 3840.5. LW 3850.5. LW 3860.5. LW 3870.5. LW 3880.5. LW 3890.5. LW 3900.5. LW 3910.5. LW 3920.5. LW 3930.5. LW 3940.5. LW 3950.5. LW 3960.5. LW 3970.5. LW 3980.5. LW 3990.5. LW 4000.5. LW 4010.5. LW 4020.5. LW 4030.5. LW 4040.5. LW 4050.5. LW 4060.5. LW 4070.5. LW 4080.5. LW 4090.5. LW 4100.5. LW 4110.5. LW 4120.5. LW 4130.5. LW 4140.5. LW 4150.5. LW 4160.5. LW 4170.5. LW 4180.5. LW 4190.5. LW 4200.5. LW 4210.5. LW 4220.5. LW 4230.5. LW 4240.5. LW 4250.5. LW 4260.5. LW 4270.5. LW 4280.5. LW 4290.5. LW 4300.5. LW 4310.5. LW 4320.5. LW 4330.5. LW 4340.5. LW 4350.5. LW 4360.5. LW 4370.5. LW 4380.5. LW 4390.5. LW 4400.5. LW 4410.5. LW 4420.5. LW 4430.5. LW 4440.5. LW 4450.5. LW 4460.5. LW 4470.5. LW 4480.5. LW 4490.5. LW 4500.5. LW 4510.5. LW 4520.5. LW 4530.5. LW 4540.5. LW 4550.5. LW 4560.5. LW 4570.5. LW 4580.5. LW 4590.5. LW 4600.5. LW 4610.5. LW 4620.5. LW 4630.5. LW 4640.5. LW 4650.5. LW 4660.5. LW 4670.5. LW 4680.5. LW 4690.5. LW 4700.5. LW 4710.5. LW 4720.5. LW 4730.5. LW 4740.5. LW 4750.5. LW 4760.5. LW 4770.5. LW 4780.5. LW 4790.5. LW 4800.5. LW 4810.5. LW 4820.5. LW 4830.5. LW 4840.5. LW 4850.5. LW 4860.5. LW 4870.5. LW 4880.5. LW 4890.5. LW 4900.5. LW 4910.5. LW 4920.5. LW 4930.5. LW 4940.5. LW 4950.5. LW 4960.5. LW 4970.5. LW 4980.5. LW 4990.5. LW 5000.5. LW 5010.5. LW 5020.5. LW 5030.5. LW 5040.5. LW 5050.5. LW 5060.5. LW 5070.5. LW 5080.5. LW 5090.5. LW 5100.5. LW 5110.5. LW 5120.5. LW 5130.5. LW 5140.5. LW 5150.5. LW 5160.5. LW 5170.5. LW 5180.5. LW 5190.5. LW 5200.5. LW 5210.5. LW 5220.5. LW 5230.5. LW 5240.5. LW 5250.5. LW 5260.5. LW 5270.5. LW 5280.5. LW 5290.5. LW 5300.5. LW 5310.5. LW 5320.5. LW 5330.5. LW 5340.5. LW 5350.5. LW 5360.5. LW 5370.5. LW 5380.5. LW 5390.5. LW 5400.5. LW 5410.5. LW 5420.5. LW 5430.5. LW 5440.5. LW 5450.5. LW 5460.5. LW 5470.5. LW 5480.5. LW 5490.5. LW 5500.5. LW 5510.5. LW 5520.5. LW 5530.5. LW 5540.5. LW 5550.5. LW 5560.5. LW 5570.5. LW 5580.5. LW 5590.5. LW 5600.5. LW 5610.5. LW 5620.5. LW 5630.5. LW 5640.5. LW 5650.5. LW 5660.5. LW 5670.5. LW 5680.5. LW 5690.5. LW 5700.5. LW 5710.5. LW 5720.5. LW 5730.5. LW 5740.5. LW 5750.5. LW 5760.5. LW 5770.5. LW 5780.5. LW 5790.5. LW



SAILING 50

Bullimore yearning for recognition as serious yachtsman

SPORT

FRIDAY JANUARY 29 1999

AMERICAN FOOTBALL 54

Chandler relishing opportunity to send Falcons soaring



Unheralded Mauresmo overpowers Davenport to reach final

Teenager muscles in on the women's game

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

SHE bears the shoulders of a man and plays like one. So ventured Lindsay Davenport, the world No 1, who was sensationally bundled out of the Australian Open by Amelie Mauresmo, of France, yesterday. Mauresmo, unseeded, plays Martina Hingis, the defending champion, in the final tomorrow after Hingis subdued Monica Seles in the second semi-final.

Mauresmo's victory represents something of a statement on the future of women's tennis. The world junior champion in 1996, when she overwhelmed her fellow teenagers with her raw strength, Mauresmo now threatens to trample over all corners in the senior game.

Hingis will start as a warm favourite to land her third successive Australian Open title, but in the longer term Mauresmo, 19, promises to raise the bar of performance to fresh heights. Her style resembles that of a Spanish male baseliner, deploying heavy top spin from her long, looping ground strokes. Such an approach requires considerable strength. Mauresmo possesses that in abundance.

"She does not hit the ball like any other girl," Davenport said. "Women's tennis isn't normally played like that. She hits the ball so hard, so strong. I thought I was playing a guy." When told of Davenport's comments, Mauresmo said: "I take that as a compliment. I need to feel very strong physically to play my game."

Christine Truman ventured similar thoughts when, 30 years ago, she first set eyes on

Margaret Court. But Court, four times an Australian Open champion, did not have the hint of masculinity about Mauresmo's face, nor her masculine hands. Add to that Mauresmo's imposing physique, which she has developed through regular gym work, and you have the template for women's tennis in the 21st century. Power is increasingly the name of the game.

It was all too much for Davenport, who had not dropped a set in her previous 12 grand-slam matches. She was unable to handle Mauresmo's first service, which often reached velocities of 180kph, and succumbed 4-6, 7-5 in 1hr 55min.

Even when Davenport estab-

Culture clash 7
Results 50

lished a 4-2 lead in the decisive set, she looked strangely vulnerable. It was almost as though Davenport, not Mauresmo, was appearing in her first grand-slam semi-final.

Mauresmo has yet to win a tournament on the regular tour. Her junior record embraced titles at Roland Garros and Wimbledon in 1996, after which she was expected to make an immediate impression at senior level. A spate of minor injuries halted her in her tracks until, in May last year, she announced herself as an emerging force in Berlin.

On that occasion, Mauresmo fended off match points in qualifying, then accounted for Dominique van Roost, Davenport and Jana Novotna before



Gym'll fix it: Mauresmo has worked hard to develop an imposing physique that helped to account for Davenport yesterday

falling to Conchita Martinez in the final. Her world ranking rose 80 places, to No 29, in 1998.

Mauresmo is here with her girlfriend, Sylvie Bourdon, who runs a tennis bar in St Tropez. Mauresmo moved permanently to St Tropez late last year and hired Christophe Fournerie, a journeyman professional, as her coach. She is bidding to become the first unseeded grand-slam champion since Chris O'Neil won here 20 years ago. O'Neil earned Aus \$6,000 for her triumph; Mauresmo stands to collect \$679,000 (about £270,000).

Remarkably, Mauresmo, unheralded before this tournament, is the elder of the finalists. Hingis is nine months younger and plainly fancies

her chances of capturing her fifth grand-slam title. The two have played twice previously. Both times, Hingis won in three sets. In their most recent encounter, in July, Mauresmo actually led by a set and 4-1. Hingis remembers the meeting well.

"She has tended to choke once in a while when she was leading," Hingis said. "Even when she played against me, she made a few errors which she shouldn't have." Mauresmo was not found wanting against Davenport. She was a

bastion of mental strength, imposing her presence on the best player in the world for the past six months.

Mauresmo also repelled two match points in her first-round match here, against Corina Morariu. However, her physique does not intimidate Hingis. "Serena Williams has stronger shoulders," Hingis said. "I don't think that she hits the ball very hard. I have a big chance to win this title again and I am definitely pleased that I don't have to play Lindsay in the final."

Hingis's 6-2, 6-4 defeat of Seles severed the latter's 33-game unbeaten streak in this tournament. Seles, seeded No 6, was a pale imitation of the player who accounted for Steffi Graf 24 hours earlier.

She opened with a stream of unforced errors and never came to terms with Hingis's clever courtwork. A key factor was Hingis's high first-service ratio of 64 per cent.

The first men's semi-final, between unseeded opponents, went to Thomas Enqvist, who trounced Nicolas Pietrangeli 6-3, 7-5, 6-1. In the final on Sunday, Enqvist plays either Yevgeny Kafelnikov, seeded No 10, or Tommy Haas, who crossed swords in the early hours of this morning.

Meanwhile, Hannah Collin, of Surrey, reached the quarter-finals of the girls' singles when she dismissed Melanie Clayton, of Australia, 6-2, 6-4. Collin was due to play Nadejda Petrova, of Russia, seeded No 1, in the early hours.

Collymore's plight leaves his manager bewildered

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

WHEN John Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, was asked for his definition of stress yesterday, his answer was emphatic. "Think of a 29-year-old player at Rochdale who has got three months left on his contract, a mortgage and three kids," he said. "I wonder what's going through his mind when he reads about all this."

Gregory's delivery was cold and unemotional, with little visible sympathy for the apparent plight of Stan Collymore, the temperamental Villa striker. On Monday, it was revealed that Collymore is suffering from stress, is seeking medical advice and will not be available to Villa in the foreseeable future.

With the move of Juninho, the Atletico Madrid midfielder, to Villa Park edging closer, Gregory was able to take some crumbs of comfort from a firing and confusing week. Yet the continuing woes of Collymore bewilder him. "Maybe I'm a bit old-fashioned," he said, "but it's an issue that is new to me and I don't think any other player at this club is likely to get like that. But then, I suppose no one has had the pressures like Stan has. I'm told it's stress. There are no substances or alcohol involved. Yes, we will give Stan our support, as we would any of our employees. How it will pan out? I really don't know. I'm a football manager, not a social worker."

He added: "I can't understand how someone in his position could end up like this. He's got a serious problem and only he can really sort it out. We've done everything to help him. He wanted to see someone about it and we've made that possible."

It is unlikely that Collymore, 28, can now play a prominent role in Villa's tilt at the FA Cup Premiership on a clause in his contract that states he is entitled to 20 per cent of the transfer fee — as did Brian Little, his predecessor — but his manner yesterday suggested that he will take no more.

Whether Collymore is genuinely stressed out or simply feeling sorry for himself — Gregory left little doubt as to

his personal prognosis — the door, at least, has been left ajar. "Yes, I can see Stan playing again this season," Gregory said. "If he comes back in three months and plays well, he'll be in the team. But I've got 19 or 20 other lads I'm concentrating on."

Juninho, the former Middlesbrough player, would strengthen Gregory's hand should he join the club next week for a fee of about £10 million. He was impressed by what he saw at Villa Park on Wednesday.

Gianni Paladini, Juninho's advisor, said yesterday: "I'm 90 per cent certain that the deal will go through." Gregory was more cautious. "I think he's getting a bit carried away there," he said. "I'd say it's



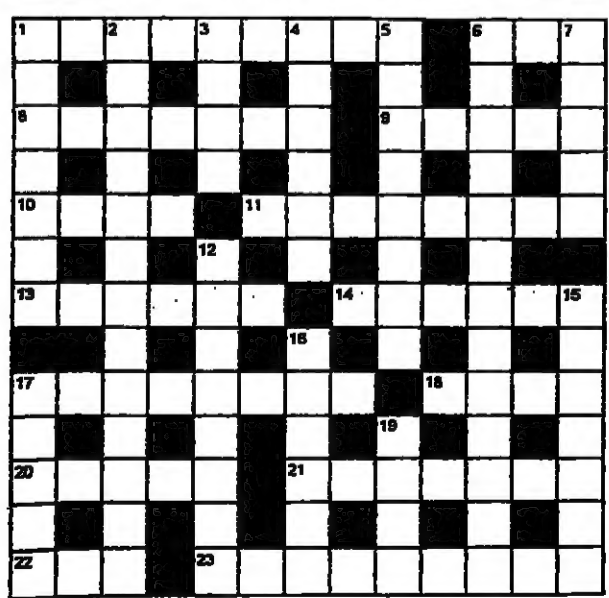
Collymore: stressed out

about fifty-fifty at the moment. I've spoken to one or two people about the lad and he's a genuine character. Even when Middlesbrough was facing relegation, he was trying his little heart out."

Juninho, 25, has made it clear that he does not want to return to Middlesbrough, who sold him for £12 million 18 months ago and hold a first option on him. However, any move from Spain hinges on a clause in his contract that states he is entitled to 20 per cent of the transfer fee.

Viv Anderson, the Middlesbrough assistant manager, said: "Because we have first option, Villa are legally bound to inform us when they have agreed a deal. Whenever we hear from them, we will decide on our response."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1627

ACROSS

- 1 Old City headgear (6,3)
- 6 A fruit (full) dress (3)
- 8 Raise false alarm (3,4)
- 9 Warning hooter (5)
- 10 Sound reproduction equipment (2,2)
- 11 Figure of speech (6)
- 13 N African desert (6)
- 14 Seal pettily (6)
- 17 Heavy shower (8)
- 18 Simple card game: break (4)
- 20 Tiny pathogen (5)
- 21 Causing hurt (7)
- 22 Staff, shift: 5½ yds (3)
- 23 Take to pieces (9)

DOWN

- 1 God of wine (7)
- 2 Normal (selfish) behaviour (3,3,3,5)
- 3 School, founded 1440 (4)
- 4 Blew heavily; was resentful (6)
- 5 Aus. island state (6)
- 6 Not (done) seriously (3,3,3,2,2)
- 7 One on last legs (5)
- 12 (Motion) put forward (8)
- 15 Forcibly push back (7)
- 16 Noisy commotion (4)
- 17 Underwater worker (5)
- 19 It, town, famous campanile (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1626

- ACROSS: 1 Castor 5 Side 8 Fall 9 Singular 10 Misplice
11 Funk 12 Mentor 14 Pollox 16 Taxi 18 Trousers
20 Dormouse 21 Love 22 Myth 23 Tangle
DOWN: 2 Avarice 3 Tulip 4 Restaurant 5 Souffle
6 Drain 7 Under protest 13 Triumph 15 Unravel
17 Agony 19 Saloon

SOLUTION TO BOXING DAY TIMES TWO JUMBO Page 50

Ranatunga wins reprieve but Sri Lanka face World Cup ban

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN PERTH

SRI LANKA, the World Cup holders, may be prevented from defending the trophy when the competition is held in England this summer. That was a possible implication after an extraordinary four-hour disciplinary hearing convened by the International Cricket Council (ICC) into the behaviour of Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain.

Peter van der Merwe, the ICC match referee, decided reluctantly, after lengthy legal submissions, that he could not impose a suitable punishment on Ranatunga for his behaviour in Adelaide last Saturday. Now the ICC will revise its code, circle it with a ring of fire, and make sure constituent countries sign up, irrespective of what lawyers may argue. Sri Lanka have shown that they regard legal nitpicking more highly than either the spirit of the game or its laws, and if they do not amend that view then their invitation to take part in the World Cup — the ICC's showpiece event — could be rescinded.

Ranatunga threatened to take his players off the field, and told Ross Emerson, one of the umpires, that he, Ranatunga, was in charge of the match. Ranatunga was found guilty of misconduct under the terms of the ICC code of conduct, handed a six-match ban, suspended for a year, and

fined 75 per cent of his match fee.

However, afterwards, van der Merwe, in a statement of remarkable frankness and considerable feeling, made it clear that he had been tied up by the arguments of Ranatunga's lawyers, who won an adjournment at the original hearing on Tuesday and argued restraint of trade when it resumed yesterday.

"This code was drawn up by cricketers, to be administered by cricketers," van der Merwe said. "It was a great disappointment, and a very complicated matter, to find that legal people were in prominence at this hearing. I have no doubt the ICC will take heed of this hearing, and the way it had to be conducted. This little green book will find a lot of amendments in the next edition."

"The charge against Ranatunga was proved. He violated clause one of the code of conduct, that he did not at all times maintain the spirit of the game, besides the laws. Should he be guilty of further violations of the code, then naturally the suspension will come into play, as well as whatever sanctions he incurs."

"Ranatunga expressed regret at the embarrassment he caused his opponents, the public, and the officials, and has

shared by the England team. Alec Stewart, the captain, and Graeme Hick, who was batting when Ranatunga tried to take his players off, attended the hearing but were required for only 20 minutes as the Sri Lankan legal team presented their case.

Other cricketing nations are fed-up with the antics of the Sri Lankans and their manipulative and abusive captain. Australia will point out that Ian Healy was banned for two years ago, for throwing his bat away after he had left the field. England will recall that Chris Lewis was fined A\$1,600 (£600) for "sending off" Craig McDermott in a Test match at Adelaide four years ago.

Now the World has seen Ranatunga try to lead his team off, prod an umpire in the chest, swear at match officials and tell one of them: "I'm in charge of this game." If an ICC match referee cannot enforce the code of conduct when the evidence is so overwhelming, the constitution needs to be ripped up, and will be.

As for the Sri Lankans, they have disgraced themselves with their flagrant disregard for the game, and those who guard it. Their lawyers may have got the captain off the hook this time, but his reputation has gone. Throughout cricket, his name is mud.



Ranatunga: misconduct

MORE!! FREE!!

Since The X-Stream Network launched the UK's first FREE Internet access service in March 1998, there have been many changes in the Internet service market.

Even though headline grabbing imitators have appeared, X-Stream still remains way ahead of the game. That means lightning speed web access and a connection each and every time.

But don't take our word for it! If your ISP doesn't offer any of the features below, check out The X-Stream Network

After all, it's FREE! What have you got to lose?

the X-Stream network

100% FREE Internet access

- FREE Internet access
- FREE POP3 Email
- 24hr FREE web hosting
- No engaged times
- UK V.80 compliant
- FREE Email tech support

0870 730 6466 www.x-stream.com